

HISTORY
OF
CHENANGO COUNTY,
CONTAINING THE
DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTY AND SKETCHES OF THE TOWNS;
INDIAN TRIBES AND TITLES;
Gov. Clinton's Purchase of the Twenty Townships,
EARLY INHABITANTS AND SETTLEMENTS;
ALSO:
LAND PATENTS; RISE AND PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE; ANNALS OF THE CHENANGO CANAL;
CHURCH HISTORY; EMINENT MEN AND STATESMEN,
PROFESSIONS, ETC. ETC.

BY HIRAM C. CLARK.



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HISTORY

OF

CHENANGO COUNTY.

INTRODUCTORY.

At various times, and at stated intervals, the annals of this county have been given to the public by numerous historians in their accounts of the State; but, so far as the writer has been able to inform himself, nothing has appeared in print that is not of too general a character for the precise information sought by the particular reader. For instance, book-makers tell us that Norwich is a pleasant, salubrious, and thriving village, situated upon a plain, near the junction of two streams. That it has so many churches, and school-houses, so much population, so many hotels, so much machinery, a court-house, and, indeed, they give full particulars of precisely what every inhabitant already knows, but nothing more. This kind of intelligence is satisfactory as a guide book to a traveler, but of no consequence to a resident.

There are many incidents connected with the early settlement of the county resting in the recollection of aged people. If these are not soon recorded they will be lost. Many valuable sources of information are already cut off by the death of individuals. It is believed that but three of the original settlers of this village are yet alive, and these three are far advanced in life.

It must be apparent that in writing a sketch of this nature from personal observation, from details and incidents collected promiscuously, as opportunity presents, a *lucidus ordo* (or arrange-

ment) cannot be strictly regarded. It is proposed to introduce so much extraneous matter, both National and State, as will serve to illustrate our county's rise and progress. It will be necessary also to consider Indian affairs with some minuteness. If we have time we contemplate giving some Geological information applicable to the county.

THE COUNTY—ITS ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL DIVISIONS.

THE STATE of New York, originally a dependency, wholly subordinate to Great Britain, was erected into a sovereignty as early as the year 1777. The proposition for the formation of the Colony of New York into a sovereign, independent State, bearing its colonial designation, was first submitted to the people residing within its borders, by a convention, or Congress, as it was then denominated, already called and assembled by authority of the people, as colonists, for the purpose of framing a conditional or provisional government to continue only until the misunderstandings with the mother country (then understood to be temporary) could be compromised by peaceful arrangement, mutually satisfactory to the belligerent parties. But, as time elapsed, the provisional government had the sagacity to discover the prospects of peace every day diminished. Already the complete attainment of independence for the thirteen revolted colonies agitated political society in every quarter. Ac-

cordingly, on the thirty-first day of May 1776, some two months before the final action on the declaration of independence, this convention recommended to the people of this colony, to choose delegates to a convention duly empowered to construct a constitution for the Colony, and to make it an independent State, renouncing all allegiance to the King of Great Britain. As soon as the passage of the declaration of independence at Philadelphia was communicated to the world, the purposes of the Colonists were greatly strengthened.—In place of calling a new Convention, the people gave the Convention recommending the call ample powers to act in the premises. In pursuance of the new authority conferred and moreover inspired by the action of the general Congress, the convention in April 1777, enacted the first Constitution of the State of New York. At this time the State was comprised of but fourteen counties, namely: New York, Albany, Dutchess, Westchester, Ulster, Suffolk, Queens, Orange, Kings, Richmond, Tryon, Charlotte, Cumberland, and Gloucester. The two last named counties were at a subsequent period ceded to Vermont. This Constitution of 1777, with occasional amendments, vindicated its wisdom, inasmuch as the people lived and flourished under it for the space of forty years, and that too when the country was in its chrysalis state. Under its benign influence this State attained to an unprecedented degree, prosperity, and even wealth and grandeur. At this day old men are proud to recount the rise and progress of her agriculture, commerce, and the advancement of the arts and sciences, during this long period of universal prosperity. They are doubly proud to rehearse the labors of her orators, her statesmen and her judges, many of whom have left world wide reputations achieved at this auspicious era. But as time advanced the wants of society called into existence the Constitution of 1821, which in its turn gave place to that of 1846. Under these three in-

struments, yielding to each other with occasional amendments of the first two, our State has had a political life of over seventy years—a period coeval with the general government. Our political fathers are now dead, but they have erected a monument to their wisdom, more durable than brass, to stand in lasting attestation of their sacrifices and their patriotism.

CHENANGO COUNTY derives its name from the river which flows through its territory; and the river is indebted for its beautiful designation to the Indians who once wandered along its borders, and in whom was vested the original possessory title to the soil in this region. The County was established in 1798, over soil taken from Herkimer, and Tioga counties. Up to 1806 it included also Madison county. The county is rather more than half a century in years. It is thirty-five miles long, and 28 wide. Herkimer and Tioga counties were taken from Montgomery county in 1791. Montgomery county originally comprised what, during the Revolution, was known as Tryon county; the name was changed from Tryon to Montgomery in 1784. Chenango county, therefore, traces back her lineage through Herkimer and Tioga to Montgomery, the original Tryon county, so famous in revolutionary history.

THE TOWNS into which Chenango is subdivided are twenty in number, and were erected at various periods.

Bainbridge, the oldest town in the county, was organized from Tioga county in 1791, under the name of Jericho: name changed to Bainbridge in 1814.

Columbus was taken from the town of Camden in 1805.

Coventry was taken from Greene in 1806.

Guilford was taken from Oxford, under the name of Eastern, in 1813. The name of Eastern was changed to Guilford in 1817.

German was taken from the town of De Ruyter in 1806.



GEORGE THE THIRD.



Greene was taken from the towns of Union and Jericho in 1798.

Lincklaen was taken from German in 1823.

McDonough was taken from Preston in 1816.

New Berlin was taken from Norwich in 1807. In 1821 the name was changed to Lancaster; but changed back to New Berlin in 1822.

Otselic was taken from German in 1817.

Oxford organized as a part of Tioga county in 1793; taken from the towns of Union and Jericho.

Pharsalia, organized under the name of Stonington, was taken from Norwich in 1806; the name changed to Pharsalia in 1808.

Pitcher was taken from German and Lincklaen in 1827.

Plymouth was taken from Norwich in 1806.

Preston was taken from Norwich in 1806.

Sherburne was organized in 1801, and comprised the eighth and ninth townships.

Smithville was taken from Greene in 1808.

Smyrna was taken from Sherburne in 1808; organized by the name of Stafford—name changed to Smyrna the same year.

Norwich was organized in 1793, as a part of Tioga county.

North Norwich was taken from Norwich in 1849.

By referring to the above list it will be seen that Norwich (pronounced *Nor-idj*, the *w* is silent,) once included the towns of New Berlin, McDonough, Preston, Pharsalia, Plymouth, and North Norwich; making an extent of territory about six times larger than her present limits. The town meetings were appointed for this village, and as the roads at an early period were in such primitive condition as not to admit of the distant citizen's attending these

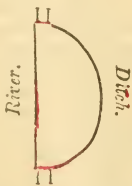
meetings and returning home the same day; and, when, moreover, we call to mind that on gala days the town was visited by from one to three hundred Indians; and, especially too, when we remember that temperance societies are of modern invention; let not the reader be surprised if we say to him that fun used at such times to run so high, so fast and furious, as to create serious apprehension among the sober-minded people of this burgh for their personal safety. But notwithstanding these occasional excesses, there was among the early settlers of this county, a manly frankness a winning hospitality, perfectly cordial and sincere whenever extended to a neighbor or stranger. We must ever reverence the homely honesty of the pioneers of the county.—We cannot too much admire their unflinching perseverance while undergoing privations, frightful to think of, in successful efforts to subdue a cold and stubborn soil! a soil which we, their descendants, repose upon in perfect ease. Strangers to every want (except such as ourselves create,) we are accommodated with roads and canals, schools, churches and markets, where industry realizes her rightful gains.—Theirs was the toil, ours is the reward.

INDIAN HISTORY AND TITLES.

Over sixty years have elapsed since the Caucasian or white race came to clear up the forests of Chenango.—When they arrived here they found another people in possession of the soil, who held divided empire with the panther, the bear, and the wolf; all of whom had a very early occupancy; one long prior to the landing of the pilgrims upon Plymouth Rock. The inhabitants who first peopled this valley, so far as we know, were of the Oneida tribe of savages, interspersed perhaps with a scattered few of the Tuscarora Indians. There are some traces, however, of a very early class of native inhabitants in this region which may have been dispossessed by the Oneidas, or some other tribe, centuries ago.

In the year 1817, Dewitt Clinton addressed to Doct. Samuel L. Mitchell, of New York, a paper upon the antiquities of this State, from which we extract the following, relative to this county :

"In Oxford there is a fort, on the east side of the Chenango river, in the centre of the present village, which is on both sides of the river. There is a piece of land containing between two and three acres, which is about thirty feet higher than the adjoining flat land around it. This rise of land lies along the river bank about fifty rods, and at the south-westerly end this fort was situated. It contained about three roods of ground, and on the river the line was nearly straight and the bank almost perpendicular. The figure was nearly like this,



At the places north and south, marked for gates, there were two spaces of about ten feet each where the ground has not been broken, which were, undoubtedly, the entrances or gateways by which the people of the fort went out and in, and particularly for water. The curve, except the gateways, was a ditch regularly dug; and although the ground on which the fort is situated, was, at the first white settlement, as heavily timbered as any other part of the forest, yet the lines of the work could be distinctly traced among the trees, and the distance from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the embankment, generally, about four feet. The antiquity of this fortification is more particularly evident from the following fact: There was one large pine tree, or rather dead trunk, fifty or sixty feet high, which being cut, one hundred and ninety-five concentric circles of

the wood could be easily distinguished and many more could not be counted, as the sap wood of the tree was principally gone. Probably this tree was three or four hundred years old; certainly more than two hundred. It might have stood one hundred years after it had completed its growth, and even longer. It is also uncertain how long a time elapsed from the excavation of the ditch to the commencement of the growth of this tree. That it was not there when the earth was thrown up, is certain; for it stood on the top of the bank, and its roots had shaped themselves to the ditch, running quite under the bottom of it, then rising on the other side near the surface of the earth, and then pursuing a horizontal direction. Probably this work was picketed in, but no remains of any wood-work has been discovered. The situation was very eligible, being healthy, commanding a beautiful prospect up and down the river, and there being no highland within such a distance that the garrison could be annoyed. No vestiges of any implements or utensils have been found, except some pieces of coarse pottery resembling stoneware and roughly ornamented. The Indians have a tradition that the family of the Antones, which is supposed to belong to the Tuscarora nation, are the seventh generation from the inhabitants of this fort: but of its origin they know nothing. There is also a place at Norwich, in the same county, on a high bank of the river, called the *Castle*, where the Indians lived at the period of our settling the country, and some vestiges of a fortification appear there, but it is, in all probability, of a much more modern date than the one at Oxford."

In tracing back the history of the Oneida nation of Indians, they will be found to have constituted an important branch of the celebrated Five Nations, originally; and subsequently of the Six Nations. As early as 1647, the Five Nations, composed of the Mohawk, Onondaga, Seneca, Cayuga, and Oneida tribes, are found to be in

joint alliance with the English Colonists. Of these clans the Mohawks were first in rank, and the Senecas first in numbers. By the terms of this alliance they placed their countries under the protection of the English nation, surrendering up sovereignty, but retaining the title in themselves. Hence more than a century after the time of this alliance, Governor Tryon writes to the home government that England owned the Colony of New York "by virtue of grants, and the treaties and deeds of cession by the Five and Six Nations."

The Five and Six Nations were always in amity with the English, excepting occasional estrangements, and the English policy was to encourage their rapacious spirit for conquest as all their acquisitions in war came naturally into English hands, first by treaties, then by purchase, followed by solemn deeds of cession, technically worded, and about the tenor of which the wild savages could have understood not much.

Rush & Co.
As early as sixteen hundred and eighty-seven the Five Nations enjoyed a high war renown, for Governor Dongan writes to England, that "they are the most warlike people in America, and are a bulwark between us and the French, and all other Indians; they go as far as the south sea, the north-west passage, and Florida to war. They are so considerable that all the Indians in these parts of America are tributary to them."

About the year 1714 the Oneida Indians, while on a predatory excursion into the Carolinas formed an alliance with the Tuscaroras, who were natives of the South, and brought them into, or adjoining their country, lying in this State near Lake Oneida. This tribe built one village about six miles from the Oneidas, and another on the Susquehannah river. They were taken into the political alliance of the Five Nations, and after this time the confederates were styled the Six Nations.—

This County is situated on the route between their two villages; it is not therefore impossible but that they were as numerous here at an early day as the Oneidas. Perhaps more so.

The Mohawks were proprietors up the Mohawk valley, and their lands, as well as those of the other tribes, seem to have extended north and south, indefinitely. The Oneidas were the next nation west, and held head quarters near Rome, in Oneida county.

In the year 1768 the Six Nations conveyed to the English by a deed of bargain and sale, all of their lands east and south of a line commencing a few leagues west of Fort Stanwix, now Rome, and running in a south-west direction to the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. This line is east of Owego and was very near this county, if it did not run through it. As this county then had no particular known monuments by which the line past us could be designated, it is just now difficult to say whether all or any portion of it was in the cession. By this cession the English obtained a country stretching over a thousand miles. They paid for this mammoth cession something less than sixty thousand dollars.

While giving the history of the primitive owners of the county, it is proper to show their number and condition. At a very early day the poor Indian was regarded not in his social relation, but only so far as he was dangerous to the ambition of the white man, who was unceasingly abstracting his country from him for the purposes of private gain. Accordingly the early Governors of the province of New York sent to England accounts of the war capacity of the various tribes, omitting all mention of the women and children and youths, incapable of bearing arms. In the year 1677 the Oneida tribe numbered two hundred warriors; and in 1736 the Tuscarora tribe were estimated at two hundred and fifty fighting men. The two tribes amounting to only four hundred and fifty combatants. In the year 1774, (one year

before the Revolution,) Gov. Tryon represented that the Six Nations were two thousand strong, and expert in the arts of war. In the last mentioned year the Oneida tribe numbered of men, women, and children, about fifteen hundred souls. At this time the Seneca Indians had one thousand warriors.

The Five Nations of Indians ever suffered heavy losses while waging wars to confirm the white settlements in this country. One Governor represents that in 1689 the Five Nations went into war with twenty-five hundred and fifty men; ten years afterwards this body was so wasted by fighting as to number only twelve hundred and thirty men. This fact confirms the high reputation of the Five Nations for valor.

The British Governor in the year 1774 reported that (the noted) "Sir William Johnson, Superintendent of Indian affairs, had under his charge and direction twenty-five thousand four hundred and twenty fighting Indians!" certainly a formidable force when afterwards it was attempted to array it against the colonies in the revolution.

As every history of the Revolution contains so much information respecting the conduct of the red men towards the colonies during the struggle for independence, it cannot be necessary in a sketch of this kind, to consume space by recapitulation.

It is impossible to read of the enormous strength of the Indian tribes of North America (when coupled with the assistance of a wilderness inaccessible to white men, and to which the Indians could retreat in case of disaster,) without coming to the conclusion that the white people, in adopting the Machiavelian policy, *divide et impera*, (divide and govern) adopted the only means by which this country could possibly have been settled. By keeping the Indians eternally at war and scalping each other the white race saved their own scalps, and prevented every chance of their forming alliances against themselves.

When the whites arrived at Norwich between the years 1780 and 1790,

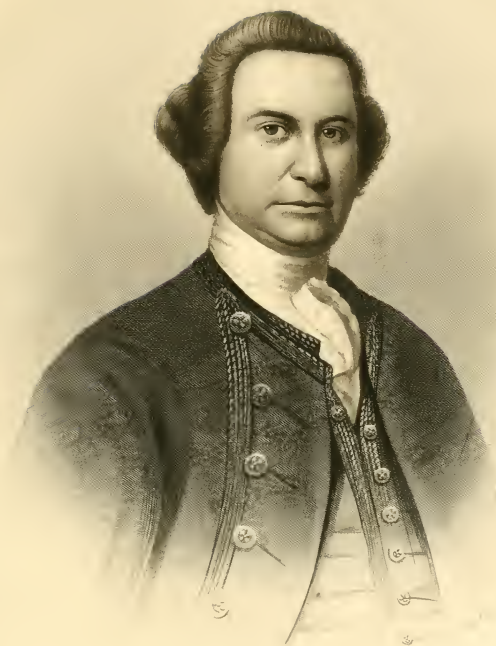
the Indians held a fort, called the Castle, which was near the present residence of Homer Johnson, and about one and a half miles below this village on the east bank of the river. Here they held Councils, and appointed courts for the trial of delinquents.— Here, too, they received their Chief, and here too they entertained their guests from the neighboring tribes.

In the neighborhood of the Castle, upon the flats and highlands, they constructed wigwams; they had also cleared off large patches of land for cornfields when the first settlers appeared among them.

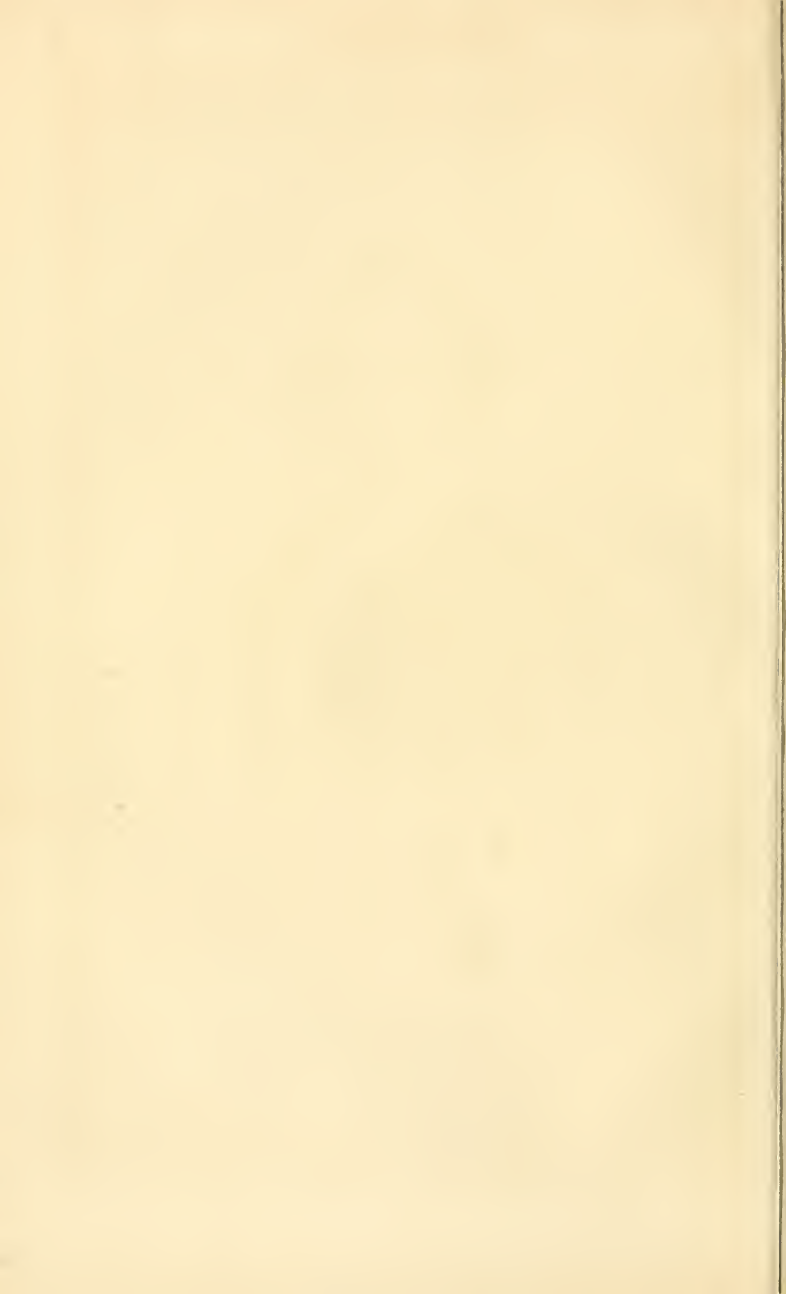
ACCOUNT OF THE ONEIDAS.

Assuming that we have already indicated with requisite precision the tribes of natives who inhabited Chenango County, prior to the advent of the early pioneers, and that they were a fractional section of the six nations, more generally designated the Iroquois Indians, (the term Iroquois being of French extraction) it is proper in this connection to place before the reader some account of these tribes.

And first, of the Oneida Canton of the Iroquois nation! According to an able and minute narrative given by Mr. Schoolcraft, in his truly valuable "Sketches of the Iroquois," the Oneida clan were originally a separate independent horde, and sprung, as Indian tradition instructs us, from two red men of the Onondaga's who strayed at an early epoch from their tribe into the vicinity of Lake Oneida, in the present County of Oneida. These men, thus isolated from the tribe to which they belonged, laid the foundation for a new tribe, which, in time, was destined to grow into importance and become subsequently the allies or friends of what was then known as the four nations, comprised of the Mohawks, Onondagas, Senecas and Cayugas. That about the year 1539 this new tribe, descended from the Onondaga wanderers, were so numerous as to be formally incorporated, as an independent tribe, into the then four nations, themselves constituting the fifth. This tradition concerning the origin of



Wm. Johnson



the Oneidas from the Onondagas, is further confirmed by the circumstance that both languages are of so homogeneous a nature as to possess in many respects, a common identity. Another circumstance would indicate a common origin! Whenever these tribes were pledged to adverse alliances during the wars which England carried on in this country, they ever abstained from hostile demonstrations against each other. Indeed it was not unusual, when their chiefs had arrayed them in hostile attitude, by their engagement in the wars carried on by Europeans, for them at such times to visit each other and to adopt means to bring about a reconciliation to the one cause.

During the revolutionary war the Oneidas, as colonial allies, made an errand of peace to the Onondagas, then embarked in the British interest, and employed many expedients to reconcile the hostile tribe to the cause of Independence. It is proper to remark, that through all the vicissitudes and various fortunes which the colonies underwent during that long and discouraging struggle, the Oneida Tribe adhered, firmly and unflinchingly, to their alliance with us. Other nations joined us but wavered in their support; they continued constant to the end! What might have been the cause of their friendship; whether the kindness of the settlers about them; whether their sympathies were touched at the sight of small bodies of resolute men, bravely resisting the armed power of England; or whatever else may have prevailed to determine their aid to the popular cause, that aid was never for a moment withdrawn!

As a nation, before the degenerating and blighting influences of civilization had degraded them from their high estate, they were distinguished for bravery and true Indian magnanimity. These wild men of the woods had hearts, and hearts too that sympathized with distress! Let us examine for a moment, their conduct towards the Tuscarora tribe! The Oneidas had made frequent hunting excursions into the Colony of North Carolina. They had been the guests of the Tusca-

roras in the days of their pride. But when in after years they made a visit to the cantonment of this tribe, they found them diminished in numbers, and a conquered people. Their best warriors were taken from them. With true native hospitality, they invited the remnant of this brave tribe to accompany them to their northern home and partake with them of the comforts of the Oneida hunting grounds. As *guests* they came; but the Oneidas gave them possessions, and finally assisted to incorporate them into the Confederacy as an integral part of the Iroquois, or six nations. After this incorporation we find the sign manual of the Tuscaroras affixed to treaties, and to deeds of cession by the six nations. They were in their new home, treated as a distinct people, retaining, as much as the five tribes, all the characteristics of a separate nationality. The Oneidas insisted that the Tuscaroras, by their valor in war, had demonstrated that themselves had been a northern tribe originally, and that they afterwards fixed their nation in Carolina.

The labors of the Oneidas to sustain the independence of the Colonies, but hastened the time of their own downfall. The achievement of freedom gave a stimulus to immigration hither, which, the Indians experienced and ineffectually remonstrated against. Purchases of indian lands were from time to time made by the State, until at length the indian hunting grounds came to be most annoyingly circumscribed. This annoyance became insupportable in later years; accordingly in 1820, the tribe purchased of the Monomonees (inhabiting Wisconsin,) a tract of country adjacent to Green Bay, where at this day they have a flourishing settlement on Duck River. To this locality the majority of the tribe removed, and here they live in a state of semi-civilization. In the year 1844, the western portion of the tribe numbered 722 souls. The former wide domain of these Indians in this state has dwindled down to a narrow belt of land, held by individual rights, and contains a population not exceeding 200 persons.

These subsist by tillage, and they imitate, so far as their indian nature will admit, the manners, dress, and customs of their white brethren. Thus much of the Oneidas!

THE TUSCARORAS.

As this tribe are supposed, upon very good authority, to have once inhabited this county, holding their possessions in joint tenancy with their friends the Oneidas, and as they probably gave name to the rivers and creeks flowing through its territory and indirectly to the county itself, it is proper to give some account of these savages in conjunction with the Oneida annals.

As has been already stated, this tribe is thought to have originated among the four or five nations. They are said to have inhabited near the falls of Oswego, in this State, from whence they wandered south west to the Mississippi River near to its junction with the Ohio, and strolling across the country into the colony of North Carolina, finally fixed their abode in that distant region. Mr. Schoolcraft thinks their's was the first settlement of stability south of the Powhatan tribe living in Virginia. Like the Iroquois of the North, they affected territory and to obtain it subjected neighboring tribes. It has been surmised they were chiefly instrumental in the overthrow of the first southern settlement founded by the enterprising but unfortunate Sir Walter Raleigh. Aware of their prowess, and encouraged by a uniform series of successful forays against and conquest over adjoining clans of savages, the Tuscaroras, in conjunction with the Coree Indians, commenced a war against the European Colonists of North Carolina, having for its object their overthrow and final extirpation from the country. The plan of hostilities was so secretly concocted, so thoroughly perfected, and indeed, so little suspected, by the colonists, that the first intimation they had of it was on the 22d of September 1711, when the allied Indians broke from their fastnesses, and with tomahawk and scalp-

ing knife in hand, poured themselves with irresistible numbers upon the devoted settlers. They made frightful havoc, destroying indiscriminately, men, women and children. The white people at length rallied, and, under the guidance of Col. Barnwell, of South Carolina, returned the fire brand of war into the Indian country. Penetrating the indian hiding places, they gave battle and killed thirty Tuscaroras. The Indians rallied anew and continued the war for several years. The combatants in this war were so nearly balanced as to prevent victory declaring for either side. At length the aid of the Virginia colonists was invoked to put an end to the struggle. To counterbalance this new force, soon to be brought into the field against them, the vigilant Tuscaroras dispatched runners to the Seneca Indians, then living in this State, for aid. While waiting for the arrival of the Northern Indians, they were compelled, by the celerity of the whites in pushing hostilities afresh and with additional force, to retreat and entrench themselves in a camp on Taw River, which they called fort Naruke, and here they awaited the approach of their enemies. The whites began the siege by making regular approaches to the fort. The besieged had not provided for the requisite supply of water, and Col. Barnwell, aware of this error, so ranged his artillery that it swept the indian water places as well as every point of exit and entrance to the fortification. By this means the besieged were compelled at disadvantage, to fight a pitched battle in which the whites, assisted by cannon, gained a triumphant victory. The battle was fought and gained on the 26th day of March, 1713. In this encounter, eight hundred of the bravest Tuscarora warriors were taken captives and sold into slavery. Their power was now broken and the tribe scattered; this broken clan came North with the Oneidas the next year, 1714. On their arrival, they were also befriended by the Senecas. According to historians the Tuscaroras of North Carolina in 1708, numbered of fighting men, twelve hun-

dred. They, by estimation, numbered in this year about six thousand souls. Two-thirds of their braves were lost at the fatal battle of Naruke in 1713.

During the revolutionary war only a portion of this tribe espoused the Colonial Cause. After the war the Senecas gave them a ridge of land in Niagara County, in proximity to the falls. In addition to this, they purchased of the Holland Land Company, a tract adjacent to the gift of the Senecas. In 1813 the British burned their village. Subsequently a reservation was provided for them west of the Mississippi, whither a portion emigrated but becoming displeased with their new home, returned to their present habitations. Their hunting grounds are too circumscribed to subsist them, and they, like the Onondas, have adopted the arts of civilized life. They assimilate to our habits and customs, and work the soil with considerable skill as will be seen by the accompanying statistics of their tribe.

In 1847, according to Mr. Schoolcraft, they numbered 253 persons living in 53 families, of whom 151 were males and 167 were females. In this year they cultivated 2080 acres of land; raised 4867 bushels of wheat; 3515 bushels of corn; 4085 bushels of oats; 1166 bushels of potatoes, besides beans, buckwheat and turnips. They possessed in this latter year 339 head of neat cattle; 96 milch cows; made 7537 pounds of butter; owned 153 horses; 215 sheep, and 596 hogs.

The writer has lived some years near this tribe and has a personal acquaintance with many of its members. He has frequently conversed with James Cusick, a brother of David Cusick, the indian archeologist. In 1827 David Cusick published the traditions of his tribe, professing to go back to an era anterior to the Christian. To gratify the curiosity of the reader, we publish an abstract of these; at the same time not pretending to pass any opinion upon dates so ancient, and resting only in human memory.

“Anterior to any date, the Eagwehoe-

we, (pronounced *Yaguyhohuy*) meaning real people, dwelt north of the lakes, and formed only one nation. After many years, a body of them settled on the Kanawag, now the St Lawrence, and after a long time a foreign people came by sea, and settled south of the lake.

Towards 2500 winters before Columbus' discovery of America, or 1005 years before our era, total overthrow of the Towancas, nations of giants came from the north, by the king of the Onguys, (Iroquois,) Donhtonha, and the hero Yatanan.

Three hundred winters after, or 708 before our era, the northern nations form a confederacy, appoint a king, who goes to visit the great emperor of the Golden city, south of the lakes: but afterwards quarrels arise, and a war of 100 years with this empire of the south, long civil wars in the north, &c. A body of people escaped in the mountain of Oswego.

1500 years before Columbus, or in the 8 of our era, Tarenawagon, the first legislator, leads his people out of the mountains to the river Yenonatah, (now Mohawk,) where six tribes form an alliance called the Long-house, Agoncseah—afterwards reduced to five, the sixth spreading west and south. The Kautanoh, since Tuscarora, came from this. Some went as far as the Onauweyoda, now Mississippi.

In 242, Shakanahih, or Stone Giants, a branch of the western tribe, become cannibals, return and desolate the country; but they are overthrown and driven north, by Tarenawagon II.

In 492, Atotarho I., king of the Onon-dagas, quells civil wars, begins a dynasty ruling over all the Five Nations, till Atotarho IX., who ruled yet in 1142. Events are since referred to their reigns.

Under Atotarho III., a tyrant, Sohnan-rohwah, arises on the Kaunaseh, now Susquehannah river, which makes war on the Sahwanug.

In 602, under Atotarho IV., the Towancas, now Mississaugers, cede to the Senecas the lands east of the river Niagara, who settle on it.

Towards 852, under Atotarho VI., the

Senecas reach the Ohio river, compel the Otowahs to sue for peace.

Towards 1042, under Atotarho VIII., war with the Towancas, and a foreign stranger visits the Tuscaroras of Neuse river, who are divided into three tribes, and at war with the Nanticokes and Totalis.

In 1143, under Atotarho IX., first civil war between the Erians of Lake Erie, sprung from the Senecas, and the Five Nations." Here end these traditions.

The native occupants of this region had favorite haunts where they constructed hamlets and passed short vacations in the hunting season in accordance with their accustomed indolence. The permanent, fixed place of savage abode is usually, near the dwelling of the chief of the canton. Like man in the civilized state, the Indian is fond of society and resorts to his village to enjoy social intercourse, take part in the gaiety of metropolitan life as well as to confer with his brethren upon matters affecting the public interest.

During the intervals of game taking the Indian is inert and listless, and compels the submissive squaw to perform all the menial duties of the household, and also to attend to the rougher labors of the field. Like the ox, the squaw is the impassive instrument to work out the means of subsistence for her lord, which office she performs, without a murmur of impatience. The life of the Indian hunter, and they are all hunters both by education and by nature, is of a variegated character, and is generally passed in excessive fatiguing wanderings through pathless forests, abstaining for days together from food and needful rest. Then follows that corresponding re-action, bordering upon downright imbecility, which ever happens when the human constitution is overtasked, either mentally or physically.

The violent exertion the Indian makes when on excursions of duty may be illustrated by the treatment of prisoners taken and held for a time in captivity. When liberated or restored to friends,

their greatest complaint has ever been the killing marches they underwent in common with their captors. The Indian by nature possesses, and by early culture is taught, a stoicism that makes him disdain to murmur or repine at whatever hardships he is called upon to endure. Noon, night, or midnight, when once he shakes off his lethargy and arouses himself into action, are all seasonable hours to him. At any hour of the twenty four he is equally prepared to march, to hunt, to fight or to retreat as circumstances seem best to dictate.

We have before adverted to the fact that the tribes inhabiting this valley were accustomed to go as far as Florida and the south sea to war. In marching to these far distant countries in pursuit of their enemies they traversed dense forests through roads impassable to white men and followed obscure trails over mountains, crossing rivers and threading a labyrinth of morasses in what seems to us an incredible short space of time.— Their journeys from fifteen hundred to two thousand miles were undertaken with all the alacrity of a ramble after pleasure. In view of these labors it is not surprising their indurated bodies should require frequent seasons of rest.

We are uninstructed as to what disposition they made of their wounded warriors in countries so remote as the Floridas. It requires four hale men to transport every disabled combatant on a march. Again in savage warfare no prisoners are taken as a general thing, although frequent instances occur where the life of the captive has been spared him. By men in the savage state, war is construed in its literal sense, that is, to destroy as many of the enemy as possible, by whatever craft or device. The savage who boasts the greatest number of scalps, snatched from the foe, ranks, in the estimation of his Chief, and of the maiden, as the greatest conqueror. To take the enemy unsuspecting and without exposure to the captor is the highest indication of good conduct in war. The Indian code of honor is ex-

actly the reverse of that standard which every white man is solemnly bound to observe. What we term magnanimity towards a conquered or unresisting enemy, is deemed low minded and pusillanimous in savage life. His system of warfare is uniform in another respect; when the warrior falls, by the fate of battle, into hostile hands, he neither asks or expects mercy. He regards his captivity as the forfeit of his existence, and while subjected to tortures that unman the white race, he looks grimly upon his exulting tormentors, defying them to inflict any cruelty that shall make him complain. Indian courage is in many respects passive and even womanly, and sustains its possessor in circumstances apparently insupportable.

The favorite resort of the natives of this region were the Indian fields, now known as the Randall farm, lying about one mile below the creek Bridge in Norwich, and a short distance South of the confluence of the Canasewacta Creek and the Chenango River. The plain upon which Norwich is situated, was flat, dry and spacious, and interspersed with springs of pure water, and hence, this spot was also a very grateful retreat to the savage at an early day. In the Indian parlance, Norwich village was then denominated the "Canasewacta country." Between the Chenango and *Tianaderha* (now Unadilla) rivers a constant communication was kept up and abundance of encampments were pitched upon either stream. The red race cleared off the forests partially upon the Randall farm, and also cut out clearings bordering the Unadilla River. Oxford was another favorite resting place; there was yet another, some miles south of Oxford. The site of the famous Indian fort in Oxford is now covered by the dwelling house of Ira Wilcox a resident of that village.

There is a tradition concerning a powerful chief who once possessed himself of the fort in Oxford, and for many successive years kept the Oneida Indians at bay. It seems incredible that an adventurer should attempt this en-

terprise against so well disciplined an enemy as the Oneidas were at an early era. Yet it may be so. The reader shall have the statement as we find it. It is as follows:

"The Oneidas leave us this traditior : that about a century or more since, a gigantic chief occupied it, who destroyed all their hunters who came into this quarter. They called this Chief THICK NECK. The Oneidas made several attempts to decoy him from his stronghold, but without success. They at length managed to go between him and the fort, when he ran down the river about six miles and secreted himself in the marsh around the pond called Warn's Pond. Here he was discovered and killed by the Oneidas, who buried him and scratched the leaves over his grave that no vestige of him should remain. The remnant of his tribe were adopted by the Oneidas, and an Indian who was hung at Morrisville many year since named Abram Antoine was a descendant from THICK NECK."

Abram Antoine himself deduced his origin from the Tuscaroras. In ploughing up the lands in the neighborhood of Norwich village flint arrow points have been discovered in considerable numbers during these latter years. The points are of triangular shape. They vary in length from two to four inches, and in the widest part, are from half an inch to two inches, and range in thickness from an eighth to three-quarters of an inch. The largest size must have required a long and heavy arrow to preserve the equipoise during its flight from the bow, to the object of attack. An immense bow must have been required to drive so heavy an arrow with sufficient momentum to force the blunt point of the flint into the body of the victim. Unless indeed, the Indians of the olden time possessed some art in springing these ponderous bows, they surely must have been furnished with arms far more sinewy and shoulders more brawny than their descendants. The arrow head itself is a curiously wrought piece of workmanship. The flint is so regularly carved as to show in the more finished specimens, a series of small, regular indentations, presenting on the edges a kind of saw or teeth which it would be difficult for the modern artizan to imitate. Hatchets

carved out of stone, have been discovered on the banks of the Unadilla river buried among arrow points.

It has been surmised by some persons that the arrows were shaped and finished by the stone axe. Many conjecture the natives possessed some secret by which they softened the flint while the carving process was going on, and again hardened it, (as we harden and soften steel by the agency of heat,) when the operation was performed. Within the past year an alligators tooth, with the enamel much decayed, was exhumed near the Castle, where it had long been buried. From the appearance of the workmanship upon the tooth, it seems to have been used as an ornament by the Indians. This tooth was doubtless procured in some of their southern incursions.

Very near the residence of Mr. Abel Chandler in Norwich, there is a large mound having many appearances in common with the mounds found in Illinois and Mississippi; and which are known to have been places of deposite for the dead. This mound is situated on the alluvial soil of the valley, and is detached from the high grounds near by. If it had a rock basis it would be rational to conclude some stream had caused its disruption from the highland standing in proximity to it. But it is equally steep, or very nearly so, on each side and corresponds in length and breadth with the tumuli on the Mississippi, and other western rivers. We know of no Indian burying place in this region nearer than Oxford. Bones have been found when excavating about the fort in that village. But at Norwich where the Indians were in greater numbers, and at an early day, no burial place has been discovered, so far as the writer can ascertain. The Castle had a village around it, as some of the first inhabitants report. Forty or fifty years ago, the outlines of an indian huddle or hamlet was plain to be seen.

Mr. Wm. Thomas, who has visited the west and witnessed the exhu-

ming of bones from the mounds feels confident that this mound has a deposit of bodies. He forms his judgement upon the striking similarity between this and the Mississippi mounds. Mr. Thomas says the bodies west are found buried on a level with the land surrounding the mound, and concludes from this fact that slight covering of earth was first placed over the dead, and after the spot was pretty much taken up with interments the mound was then piled up after the manner of the pyramids of Egypt, or in conformity to our custom of honoring the dead by the erection of monuments. As this mound is about twenty feet above the level of the plain around it, it would probably require about that amount of excavation to reach the bodies, if they are there.—The fact that the mounds in the west were first made by hands was first ascertained by the nature of the soil composing the mound, it being different from all the land lying about it. This caused excavations to be made. The spot from whence the earth composing the mounds in the west was taken, it seems next to impossible to ascertain. Like the stone of which the pyramids are built it must have been transported from a distance.

There is a mound in Illinois called mount Joliet, built in a pyramidal form and of dimensions which discovers the great labor required to construct it. Its height is 60 feet or nearly four rods perpendicular, its length 84 rods, its width 14 rods and 196 rods in circumference on the top—but much larger at its base. This is regarded as the most extraordinary mound in this country, as also the largest. This mound consist of eighteen million two hundred solid feet of earth. It may not be improper to advert to the probable origin of mounds or tombs by copying the following from the American Antiquities.

“ANCIENT Tumuli are considered a kind of antiquities, differing in character from that of the other works; both on account of what is fre-

quently discovered in them, and the manner of their construction. They are conical mounds, either of earth or stones, which were intended for sacred and important purposes. In many parts of the world, similar mounds were used as monuments, sepulchres, altars and temples. The accounts of these works, found in the Scriptures, show, that their origin must be sought for among the antediluvians.

That they are very ancient, and were used as places of sepulture, public resort, and public worship, is proved by all the writers of ancient times, both sacred and profane. HOMER, the most ancient Greek poet frequently mentions them, particularly describing the tumulus of *Tydeus*, and the spot where it was. In memory of the illustrious dead, a sepulchral mound of earth was raised over their remains; which, from that time forward, became an altar, whereon to offer sacrifices, and around which to exhibit games of athletic exercise. These offerings and games were intended to propitiate their names, to honor and perpetuate their memories. Prudentius, a Roman bard, has told us, that there were in ancient Rome, just as many temples of the gods, as there were sepulchres of the heroes; implying that they were the same."

Antiquarians believe this country to have been once peopled by a civilized race originating in Asia. They insist that the antiquities of the country show this. But it is a matter foreign to our subject and we leave it as we find it.

We extract from the "Annals of Binghamton" a brief account of antiquities discovered in the town of Greene:

"There were no Indians in this particular section, when first settled by the whites. But we have to record a most remarkable mound, the relic of Indian superstition and industry.—There are now to be seen only some imperfect traces of it. It was situated about two miles south of the village, and about ninety rods from the river bank, on what is now the farm of Mr. Lott. The mound, before it was dug down or ploughed over, was about six or seven feet above the surface of the ground, and forty feet in diameter; being nearly circular. There was also, till within a few years, a large pine stump in the centre of it, the remains of a large pine-tree which was standing when the whites came in. It was then; however, a dead tree. When it was cut down, there were counted 180 circles or yearly growths. Estimating the age of the mound by the circles of the stump, it must have been over two hundred years old when this section of the country was settled. An examination of this mound was made in 1829, by digging, and there were found human bones to a great number; and lower from the surface, there were found bones that had been evidently

burnt; suggesting the idea, that the mode of disposing of the dead, when these bones were deposited, was the burning of the dead body.—No conjecture could be formed as to the number of bodies buried here. They were found lying without order, very much jumbled, and so far decayed as to crumble, or fall apart, when brought to the air and handled. The supposition would not be an unlikely one, that these bones were the remains of bodies which had fallen in battle, and were afterwards hurriedly thrown together and buried. In the mound near Greene, there were found lying, quite in one pile, 200 arrow heads, cut after their usual form, and all either of yellow or black flint. It will be recollected that there are no stones of this kind found in this part of the State of New York. In another part of the mound there were found, lying together, about sixty made after the same form. A silver band or ring was also found, of about two inches in diameter, extremely thin, but wide, with the remains—in appearance—of a reed pipe, lying within it. The supposition is, that it was some sort of a musical instrument.—There was also found a number of stone chisels, of different shapes, evidently fitted to perform different species of work. A large piece of mica also, cut into the form of a heart; the border much decayed, and the different laminæ separated."

We have recently had a conversation with Moses Abram, a nephew (as he represents himself,) of Abram Antoine, and one of the Oneida tribe. He was asked to interpret the meaning of the term *Chenango*. He replied it was not *Chenango* but *Chenengo*, and altered by the whites to *Chenango*. He said the name was not Oneida but *Tuscarora*, as well as the term *Canashewacta*, pronounced in modern times *Canasawacta*. Moses was asked what part of this county the Indians most loved to inhabit. He replied, the *Canashewacta* country and *Oxford*. He thought they did not like *Otselic* so much, but the hunting was good there. He said he was present when Antoine killed *Jacobs*. That he never saw him look more good natured than when he struck his knife into *Jacob's* side. But Antoine's countenance soon changed, and made the Indians standing by, fear an attack upon themselves. Moses was asked how the white people obtained the Indian possessions in this county? His countenance dropped, his eye almost closed for a moment, when he sulkily

replied, "ugh! run 'em off! run 'em off!!" Moses thinks the first log house upon the Corporation of Norwich, was located nearly in rear of the Court House on the spot where the widow of Peter B. Guernsey now resides. He understood the first white men who settled in Norwich, were squatters, and removed when the land was purchased by individuals or companies from the State.

In the town of New Berlin, on the farm of Mr. Scribner, situate opposite or nearly so, to the Indian fields in Otsego county, gun barrels have been plowed up as also human skeletons, stone tomakawks and arrow points. It is the opinion of the old settlers, in the vicinity of these fields, they were once the theatre of a severe battle fought between several tribes of savages.

After we had published an account of the Indian Cemeteries found in the County, we were informed, upon what we deem reliable authority, that many years ago, CASPER M. ROUSE, then the owner of the farm upon which the present grave yard in Norwich village is situated, contemplated the erection of a farm-house on the eastern slope of this yard. The spot had not at that early day been set apart by the settlers for interments. Mr. Rouse designed to build his house with an underground kitchen and cellar, and, to further his purpose made a farmers bee to remove the earth for the foundation. The diggers were proceeding with shovels, plows and scrapes, when they suddenly came in contact with human bones in such great numbers as to deter Mr. Rouse from the further execution of his enterprise, and it was accordingly abandoned. The bones were discovered in an upright position or nearly so. We are indebted for this piece of information to General THOMPSON MEADE, who came to Chenango in 1792 (recently removed to Illinois,) and whose memory at the advanced age of seventy years or over is exceedingly clear.

As was remarked, the mounds of which we speak are of great antiquity;

and the existence of occasional deposits of dead bodies outside them does not disprove or weaken the circumstances, going to show their having been the burying spots of a people who lived in this County a great many years ago. The interments about Norwich village may have been one or two hundred years ago. Those in the mounds in this county a thousand years ago. Many of the stone implements of war exhumed from the earth, may have been deposited with bodies that have mouldered away leaving the ornaments of the dead alone remaining.

When the Chenango Canal was being dug, some laborers found several skeletons about four miles north of Oxford village, near what was once known as Gates' Tavern. This information we have from a person who informs us he was present at the exhumation of the remains, by the excavators.

A resident of Oxford informs us, that at Paget's brook some four miles below Oxford are breast-works which appear to have been Indian fortifications. They are circular and consist of about twenty-five separate embankments, running nearly into each other. Over these elevations of the earth stand aged trees. The works themselves are not high, varying from one to two feet from the level of the ground around them. But the original height of Ancient Forts made of earth, after a lapse of many years, cannot be correctly ascertained. The action of the weather, particularly of wet weather, is very destructive to them.

In the village of Oxford, in past years, as improvements at various times advanced in the neighborhood of Fort Hill, many Indian relics were found, such as Stone Hatchets—Flint Arrow points—Stone Chisels, &c. A few years ago, many Indian graves were broken in upon, while laying some pump logs. The bed of the graves were lined with cobble stone resembling in many respects the pavement used in City highways. There was



WILLIAM BENTLEY, SCULPTOR

an upper and under lining of stone. But the roof or upper ceiling of the vault had fallen upon the lower.

It is impossible in our day to estimate the number of warriors of the Six Nations and their allies, who, long before the arrival of white faces, poured through this valley on their march to the Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole countries to make war. Then again, our valley must have swarmed with these combatants on their return home from their savage contests. Some of their population no doubt died and were buried in some convenient spot which was not the usual place of deposite of the dead.

We will take this opportunity to remark, that the exact location of the Castle is on that portion of Mr. Hall's farm bounding on the east bank of the Chenango river, where are yet standing a few apple trees, planted by the natives and which are about the last trace of the former habitation of the Aborigines in Norwich.

By this time it will be apparent to the reader of these sketches, that Chenango County is barren of those thrilling incidents in revolutionary history and border warfare which occurred in many of the other counties in the State and which are contemplated by the middle aged, the old and young, with absorbing interest. The natives of this region sought other fields for the display of their valor and the shedding of blood. Otsego, Tioga, Herkimer and Oneida Counties, can recount bloody battles lost and won. But the men who took part in those mixt affrays, and were prominent actors, once occupied the soil we now cultivate. The march of the army of Gen. Sullivan, against the Indians was near the borders of this County, but the troops did not cross into our territory on any point.

During the latter years of the residence of the Oneidas in this section, a tragical scene was enacted at the Castle below Norwich. A young Oneida addressed a very beautiful squaw belonging to the same tribe, against her

own inclinations, but with the approbation of parents; who, in matrimonial affairs, generally take the welfare and affections of their offspring into their private keeping. The young savage was a man of rank and wealth, and with these accomplishments in his favor, succeeded, over a rival possessing the maidens affections, in carrying the young woman to his wigwam. But his felicity was soon interrupted by the elopement of the bride with her more cherished lover. The husband pursued and found the guilty pair in a hut, occupying the same apartments. His arrival, being in the night, was unknown to the fugitives, and while they were buried in profound sleep, he entered, with knife in hand, their lodging room, and first taking the life of the paramour, next inflicted dreadful wounds upon his wife, of which however, she finally recovered. To try this offence the Indians assembled in solemn council, heard proofs, and, after duly considering the flagrant provocation, acquitted the accused.

Another Indian Court was once convened in Norwich, to determine a dispute between an Indian and one of the settlers. The offence charged by the aggrieved party, was the despoliation of a rifle, celebrated for its excellent shooting properties, and one that had been known in the hands of its owner to do fatal execution. He complained that this valuable implement had been siezed from him, and wantonly bent along the barrel, by a blow across a log, in such a manner as to render it worthless. The Indians, who were friends of the injured party, came secretly and laid in wait several days to take vengeance upon the offender. The Chief receiving intelligence of the affair, summoned the Court, which was held upon this occasion, in solemn form, and after hearing allegations on both sides, adjudged, by the aid of his sense carrier, that the rifle should be restored or replaced by another equally good; he also exacted the further condition, as preliminary to the adjustment of the

difference, that the white settlers should henceforth abstain from selling whiskey to the Indians; or sell it to them in quantities insufficient to intoxicate.

The Oneidas experienced from some of the early settlers of the valley offices of charity and kindness, which they warmly acknowledged. When it was finally determined by the tribe to emigrate to the west, many of the recipients of these favors came into the valley to exchange courtesies and bid a final adieu.

There are flying reports, of a battle having been fought at a very early day upon the Indian fields below Norwich. But after much inquiry, we are unable to ascertain any particulars, or to trace these rumors to an authentic source.—It is possible, and indeed probable, that parties of Indian hunters got into collision about infringements of their game-laws; and in the affray lives may have been lost upon these fields. Hostile encounters and general melees often happen among untutored members of the same tribe, as also between strolling parties belonging to various tribes; and this without open, and declared warfare resulting, or at the time existing.

To give an illustration, Abram Antoine once on a hunting excursion to the northward of Greene village, pursued and wounded a deer. The animal took to flight, followed close up by the Indian. A settler at length shot down the deer, and was in the act of dressing it when Antoine came up. He claimed the deer, and set about taking possession. The settler defended his right, and a scuffle ensued. Antoine drew a knife, the white man retreated a few yards and presented the muzzle of his gun full in the Indian's face, threatening to fire if he approached the game. The Indian finally yielded the prize, and here the dispute ended. The same occurrence among Indians would have terminated differently, as their pride and resentment must have become involved.

Affrays of this nature were no doubt frequent, and in time were exaggerated by tradition, into pitched battles implicating the various Indian nations.

We now pass from the Indians and their affairs to the race who succeeded to their homes in this County. To make the transition without unbecomingly abruptness, it is proper to devote some space to a brief inquiry concerning the acquisition of title, by governments and individuals, to the possessions of foreign nations. To do this we must incorporate into these pages some of the leading features of the laws of nations.

The law of nations is defined to be "a system of rules, founded in natural reason, and established by universal consent among the civilized inhabitants of the world."

The present title of individuals to the territory comprising Chenango county, is derived either mediately or immediately from the State, and is held and enjoyed by them, subject in a limited degree to governmental authority. The county was originally *purchased* by the State of New York from the Indians, and resold again to patentees, comprised of companies and individuals, promiscuously. But independent of treaties and public purchases the State exercises certain jurisdiction over the rights of the Indians, and those of their possessions which they have never aliened in any manner to the government.

States and discoverers resort to numerous artifices and expedients, to acquire to themselves and subject to their sway the dominions of foreign, independent nations. Prominent among these may be enumerated the title acquired by conquest, by discovery, by cultivation. The right acquired in this general way is more often confined to the assertion of sovereignty, leaving the private proprietor in the unmolested occupation of his wealth, on condition that he will acknowledge the supremacy of his conqueror or discoverer. It must have sounded oddly to the simple savages of this country, when Columbus informed them he had discovered them

and their Country! more especially as this was probably the first suspicion they entertained of having been lost.

Foreign nations, originally set up a claim to America in right of this discovery and conquest, as laid down and sanctioned by the laws of nations but proceeded no further to enforce claims, than to cause an acknowledgement by the savages of the legitimacy of their right. When in after times it was deemed expedient to become the private proprietors of Indian lands, the European States accomplished this object through the agency of treaties; and deeds of purchase founded upon satisfactory, if not adequate, recompense for the surrender.

The chief treaties and settlements made on this continent were perfected under the auspices of the English Nation. By recurring to history, it will be found that Britons, in early times were exceeding fond of dispossessing their neighbors of their hard earned estates. That under the lead of William the Norman, they took forcible possession of the British Islands, despoiling the unoffending Saxons. Imitating the ancient Romans, they not only captured the country, requiring the conquered to pay tribute, but appropriated all the landed property to their private uses, and not only so, but finally subjected the dispirited people to the most galling servitude. Between the Norman and Roman conquests, there appears to have been this difference; the Romans not only occupied or laid waste the conquered country, but they often made indiscriminate slaughter of unresisting enemies. Many characteristics common to the old Roman system of warfare is practised at this day among savages.

Following up the usurping disposition of their early captains, the English in modern times poured armies upon the effeminate people of India, until they have denationalized that country. The cruelties exercised by the keeper of the Black Hole, at Calcutta, was the pretext; but the process of subjugation be-

gan previous to that barbarous act.— Few native princes within the reach of British armies, are left in undisturbed possession of their thrones.

Those allowed to sway the sceptre almost universally acknowledge fealty to the vicars rule. Whenever and wherever Englishmen emigrate, their first ambition seems to be to bring their adopted country under the control of the home government. When the Puritans set out for America, they fled from a grievous oppression, but no sooner had they established themselves, than their earliest thoughts were occupied with schemes to raise up a new empire for their oppressors.

William the Conqueror divided up the Saxon Estates among his military family, after the manner of parcelling out rations in his camp; he regulated the quantity of land bestowed, by the rank the beneficiary had attained in his army. The lands thus given out were held as a reward for past and future military services. Hence the origin of the present nobility of England; and hence too, why tillage in that country is more respected than commercial pursuits.

The United States and State sovereignties, as successors to the English Government, in this country, claim original proprietorship to all the soil lying within their respective boundaries.— Europeans asserted an original right to this country, as conquerors and discoverers; but in addition to these claims they set up others, which may here be enumerated. They insisted upon their right to the Indian Countries, because of greater excellence founded on better civilization, superior agricultural knowledge, *Christianity*, and skill in the art of war. We cannot readily suppose the savages acknowledged that Christianity and war-skill, entitled foreigners to an absolute right to crowd them out of their homes or off from their paternal acres. But right or wrong, these doctrines are now firmly incorporated into the Universal law of nations which

governs the conduct of all men in the civilized state.

To test the actual workings of the principles established by this law, let us make the case our own and practically apply its doctrines. Suppose by some mysterious allotment of Providence, it should fall out that a people possessing military skill excelling ours, (happily no such nation exists,) and conscious of their superiority, this people were to send captains and trained bands into New York Harbor; that they even succeed in destroying the city; and after this build up a monument; erect a flag staff; hoist from its peak their country's ensign; and after enacting these and other symbols of ownership by discovery and conquest, depart for their homes? that on their return they were to advertise their ruler how splendid a land they had founded, every rood of which was his private property?

Before enlarging upon the ethics of discovery and conquest, we will refer the reader to a fragment from the writings of Washington Irving, who, while he has made a very amusing caricature, has at the same time given a pungent critic upon modern commentators on national law.

RIGHT OF DISCOVERY.

"The first source of right, by which property is acquired in a country, is *discovery*. For as all mankind have an equal right to any thing which has never before been appropriated, so any nation that discovers an uninhabited country, and takes possession thereof, is considered as enjoying full property, and absolute, unquestionable empire therein.

"This proposition being admitted, it follows clearly, that the Europeans who first visited America, were the real discoverers of the same; nothing being necessary to the establishment of this fact, but simply to prove that it was totally uninhabited by man. This would at first appear to be a point of some difficulty: for it is well known, that this quarter of the world abounded with certain animals, that walked erect on two feet, had something of the human countenance, uttered certain unintelligible sounds, very much like language; in short, had a marvellous resemblance to human beings.

"But the zealous and enlightened fathers, who accompanied the discoverers, for the pur-

pose of promoting the kingdom of heaven by establishing fat monasteries and bishoprics on earth, soon cleared up this point, greatly to the satisfaction of his holiness the pope, and of all Christian voyagers and discoverers.

"They plainly proved, and as there were no Indian writers to take the other side, the fact was considered as fully admitted and established, that the two-legged race of animals before mentioned were mere cannibals, detestable monsters, and many of them giants—which last description of vagrants have, since the time of Gog, Magog and Goliath, been considered as outlaws, and have received no quarter in either history, chivalry or song. Indeed, even the philosophic Bacon declared the Americans to be people proscribed by the laws of nature, inasmuch as they had a barbarous custom of sacrificing men, and feeding upon man's flesh.

"But the benevolent fathers, who had undertaken to turn these unhappy savages into dumb beasts, by dint of argument, advanced still stronger proofs; for, as certain divines of the sixteenth century, and among the rest Lullus, affirm, the Americans go naked, and have no beards!—"They have nothing," says Lullus, "of the reasonable animal, except the mask." And even that mask was allowed to avail them but little: for it was soon found that they were of a hideous copper complexion—and being of a copper complexion, it was all the same as if they were negroes—and negroes are black; "and black," said the pious fathers, devoutly crossing themselves, "is the color of the devil!" Therefore, so far from being able to hold property, they had no right even to personal freedom—for liberty is too radiant a deity to inhabit such gloomy temples. All which circumstances plainly convinced the righteous followers of Cortes and Pizarro, that these miscreants had no title to the soil that they infested—that they were a perverse, illiterate, dumb, heedless, black seed—mere wild beasts of the forest, and like them should either be subdued or exterminated."

Of all modes of logic ever coined to acquire the proprietorship of new countries, the speculations of the Puritans were by far the most novel, quaint and alarming! Before leaving England to embark hither, they proclaimed a solemn manifesto, running in this most extraordinary language.

"The whole earth was the Lord's garden, and he has given it to the sons of Adam to be tilled and improved by them."

They next resolve themselves to be the sons of Adam. *They omitted to say whose sons the Indians were!* This doctrine, while confined to paper, did no harm as the savages knew nothing of it. It must have been highly inexpedient, in

the then powerful state of the native tribes, to attempt reduction of such a maxim to practice. The savages were luckily for them, too numerous to be encountered for the enforcement of the puritan doctrine. If the Indians had insisted they too were the sons of Adam, they certainly would have defended their estates in case of any effort at dispossession. But the doctrine of sovereignty and jurisdiction, by virtue of discovery and conquest, as it did not molest the savages in the enjoyment of their hunting grounds, and as they were ignorant of it, of course made no heart burnings between them and the Puritans.

We will now pass to the present relations existing between the Indians and our government as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court from time to time, when vexed questions have been brought before that distinguished tribunal. The Court has fixed the rights of the savages upon common law basis, and has on different occasions interpreted and limited acts of Congress and the laws which State Legislatures have passed over the various tribes.

The early acquiescence of the English government, allowing the natives the occupancy of the soil until it was taken from them by purchase or consent, has now become a part of the established law of the land. The Court decides that the Indian tribes are separate nations, retaining the possession of their countries as occupants, subject to the right of the General Government to exercise jurisdiction in certain cases over them. The natives, for their own protection and preservation, are by law incapacitated from alienating their lands to individuals, without express sanction of the government. They are wards in a state of pupillage, and the government is the guardian of their persons and estates.

It has sometimes occurred that lawyers, when contending before the Supreme Court for Indian rights, have insisted that the aborigines are the true and only owners of the soil; that their title is superior to all claims, because

they had the earliest occupancy. To this position the Judges have uniformly replied, that "Courts do not at this late day, listen to any reasoning in favor of the abstract rights of the natives to the country founded on prior possession."

It may also be affirmed that whenever Indian reservations fall within State boundaries, the local government claims to exercise exclusive authority; ignoring every right which the General Government may have assumed during the absence, or before the organization of the State jurisdiction. As for example; when crimes are committed by the savages within the territorial limits of New York, although the offence be punishable by Indian laws, and in cases too where the white people are in no wise compromised; as when one Indian takes the life of another! Yet in all of these instances the State assumes to try and punish.

This assumed right to enforce laws against men, who do not in general, understand the English language; and when, if the offender is discharged in our courts, he may nevertheless be again arraigned, and a second time put in jeopardy, before the Indian tribunals for the same offence; is beyond all measure mortifying and corroding to savage pride. It destroys nearly every image, or lingering vestige of his nationality. We will illustrate by calling attention to the arraignment, trial and execution of the memorable Abram Antoine, whom we have so often had occasion to refer to in different parts of these sketches. Antoine was recognized by adoption, as a member of the Oneida tribe. He was by nature ferocious, vindictive and restless; but notwithstanding his blood-thirsty disposition, he possessed many traits of character indicative of an acute and vigorous mind. He was never known to relent in anger, nor to forgive a foe. The Indians hated him with all the animosity there ever is in fear. They would gladly have taken his life to be rid of his dangerous temper. About the year 1821, they assisted the white people to arrest him for murder, and when once a captive,

they rejoiced that a great danger was put out of their way. But, notwithstanding all these considerations, as the time for his trial approached—the trial by pale faces of an Indian for an offence against Indians! Savage pride rose superior to personal danger, inasmuch that other tribes as well as the Oneidas, felt the disgrace, and remonstrated against the New York Courts assuming jurisdiction over Antoine's person. They protested he should be delivered up to be dealt with by his tribe. It harrowed their very souls to think one of their number should be tried and condemned by men who spoke a foreign tongue, and who possessed neither sympathies, feelings nor interests in harmony with the prisoner. Such a severe trial of pride was more than the ardent temperaments of the savages could submit to. A rescue of the accused was threatened; and prevented only by calling out troops to keep night and day vigils around the jail. We can estimate violent anguish by its outward manifestations. But who can compute the silent mortification, horror and grief, the savages endured, when, as silent spectators, they stood in clusters under the gallows to see execution done upon the person of the prisoner, by virtue of New York laws?

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S PURCHASES.

In the year 1785, the State of New York, by GEORGE CLINTON, the governor, negotiated a treaty with the Chiefs and Sachems of the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians. The treaty was consummated at Fort Herkimer in the county of Montgomery and within the boundaries of New York. It reads in this wise:

In consideration of eleven thousand and five hundred dollars *in goods and money* paid to the Indians; they convey or cede to the State, the territory included within the subjoined limits. Boundary: "Beginning at the mouth of the Unadilla or Tianaderha river, where the same empties into the Susquehanna; thence up the said Unadilla or Tianaderha river ten miles, measured on a straight line;

thence due west to the Chenengo river; thence southerly down the Chenengo river to where it empties into the Susquehanna river, and to the line, commonly called the *line of property* established at a treaty held at Fort Stanwix in the year 1768; thence along the said line to the place of beginning; so as to comprehend all the lands belonging to the Oneida and Tuscarora nation of Indians lying south of a line to be run from the Unadilla or Tianaderha river to the Chenengo river; and north of the division line between this state and Pennsylvania."

The commissioners for Indian affairs assisted Gov Clinton in adjusting the terms of the treaty and in defining the territory ceded.

By this convention the State of New York became owner of all that portion of this County lying between the Chenango, Susquehanna, Tianaderha and Unadilla rivers and bounding north on the fifteenth township of the twenty townships, and known as the south bounds of the town of Norwich. The State also by the terms of this treaty became proprietor of all that portion of the county lying east of the Susquehanna river, including South Bainbridge. These lands so purchased by the state, extended far beyond the boundaries of the county. We shall confine the history to that part of the purchase lying within the county.

We will here make a digression to explain what is understood by the expression, "*line of property*." In the course of these sketches we have had occasion to advert to the treaty made at Fort Stanwix in the year 1768. When first it was alluded to, we were not fully apprised what particular point the line made as it passed this county. It will be remembered we have described this treaty, and shown that the Indians ceded to the English government all territory east of a boundary run out from near the last named fortification, in a southeasterly direction to the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. This line of demarkation was styled the "*line of*

property." That is, the line dividing the Indian and English possessions.— This line was in part the Unadilla river to where it empties itself into the Susquehannah. From the mouth of the Susquehannah it bore off in an easterly course to the Mohawk branch of the Delaware river.

The difficulty in defining this line earlier arose from the circumstance of the Unadilla river being designated upon the old maps, the *Tionaderha Creek*. Furthermore the Chenango river is not noted down upon the ancient colonial map which we examined. We are unable to inform the reader at what precise date the Unadilla river, above its confluence with the Butternut creek, received its present cognomen. The river below this creek retains its original name. The change was made after 1768, and before 1785; but it was gradual, as the same stream seems in the latter year to be equally recognized by either name. Originally it was called *Tionaderha* and subsequently was altered to its present orthography; *Tianaderha*.— The line of property was the boundary of the back settlements of the English in New York, as also of the other colonies bordering on the Atlantic coast. The land obtained by the treaty at Fort Herkimer was soon after disposed of by the State to patentees composed of companies and private purchasers promiscuously. We have a list of the prominent ones which will be published for the inspection of all. It will be understood that the greater part of the territory bought by these patentees lies beyond the bounds of the County.

Soon after the termination of the revolutionary war, grievous complaints were preferred against Gov. Clinton, because of his permitting the public lands to pass into the hands of speculators at nominal prices. The charge, that the Governor retained for himself secret interest in the sales, although not proven against him, was believed by the people, and put his great popularity for a time into extreme danger. In some instances

State lands were sold so low as three cents an acre; then retailed to the settlers at great advance over the price paid.

Gov. Clinton made an able defence when he declared, it was of vital importance to the prosperity and welfare of the State that its domain should be disposed of at reduced prices; to invite hither immigrants and foreign capital. He insisted that not waste lands, but population was the true source of prosperity, wealth and revenue to New York.

GOV. CLINTON'S PURCHASE OF THE TWENTY TOWNSHIPS.

About the year 1788, George Clinton, as Chief Magistrate of the State, effected a second treaty with the Chiefs and Sachems of the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, as well as other tribes, by which a further cession of all the lands owned by the various nations treating with the governor was made to this State, excepting out by name certain reservations of territory to be retained by the several tribes for their exclusive occupancy.— This treaty was accomplished at Fort Schuyler near to Fort Stanwix in this State. The cession made in this year, included the well known twenty townships, extending so far as from the north line of Sangersfield in Oneida County, and Nelson in Madison County, to the Southern limits of the towns of Norwich, Preston, and McDonough in Chenango County.— The eastern boundary of the twenty towns in this county, is chiefly the Unadilla river. But owing to the sinuosities of the channel, the Surveyor General deemed it most convenient to leave occasional gores or strips of land between the townships and the river. The twenty towns at one time were supposed by the Surveyor General to abut upon what is now known as the military tract. But by some misapprehension in fixing upon the point of departure, and by reason of a variation of the compass; in running the north and south line on the west of the Townships; a gore between the west line of the twenty towns and the milita-

ry tract was left, which was of unequal width; as it was some wider opposite the 13th town than it is at the north or first of the 20 towns. It has been represented to us that it was some years before the existence of this gore was known at the State department. It was not ascertained until the monuments defining the east line of the military tract and the west line of the twenty towns had been critically examined.

And here it is not inappropriate to put forth a few remarks about the military tract; as it may become necessary to refer the reader to it while sketching the twenty towns. On the 28th day of February 1789, the legislature of this State convened at Albany, in the present county of Albany, at its twelfth session, passed a law with this title. "An act to appropriate the lands set apart to the use of the troops of the line of this State, lately serving in the army of the United States, and for other purposes therein mentioned." The first act setting these particular lands apart for the troops was as early as 1782. But at this time the title of the Onondaga and Cayuga Indians had not been extinguished. They were, after the passage of the law of 1782, parties to the Fort Schuyler treaty of 1788, as well as the Oneidas and Tuscaroras. A survey was ordered to be made by the Surveyor General under the supervision of the commissioners of the land office. In addition to surveying the military tract into townships and numbering them, the commissioners of the land office were required by law to *Christen* every town with some title by which it could be easily distinguished. The commissioners being classical scholars and desirous to acknowledge their great appreciation of ancient sages, heroes, poets, orators and philosophers; did not deign to travel out of Greece or Rome for more than two or three appellations. Thus adjacent to Chenango on the west, we find the towns of Pompey, Fabius, Solon, and also Cincinnatus in Cortland County.—Then a little way off in the soldiers country, we have such towns as Brutus, Junius,

Aurelius, Marcellus, Sempronius, Homer, Virgil, Ulysses, Hector, Cato, Galen, Scipio, Ovid, and Romulus.

The military tract extended and was surveyed out as far as from the west line of Chenango County, to the west side of Seneca lake. It extended as far north as Lake Ontario and Great Sodus Bay; and as far south as the most southern inclination of Seneca Lake. In the language of the law, the eastern bounds of this tract was to be the "Oneida and Tuscarora Countries." Cincinnatus in Cortland is the south-east Corner of this military reservation.

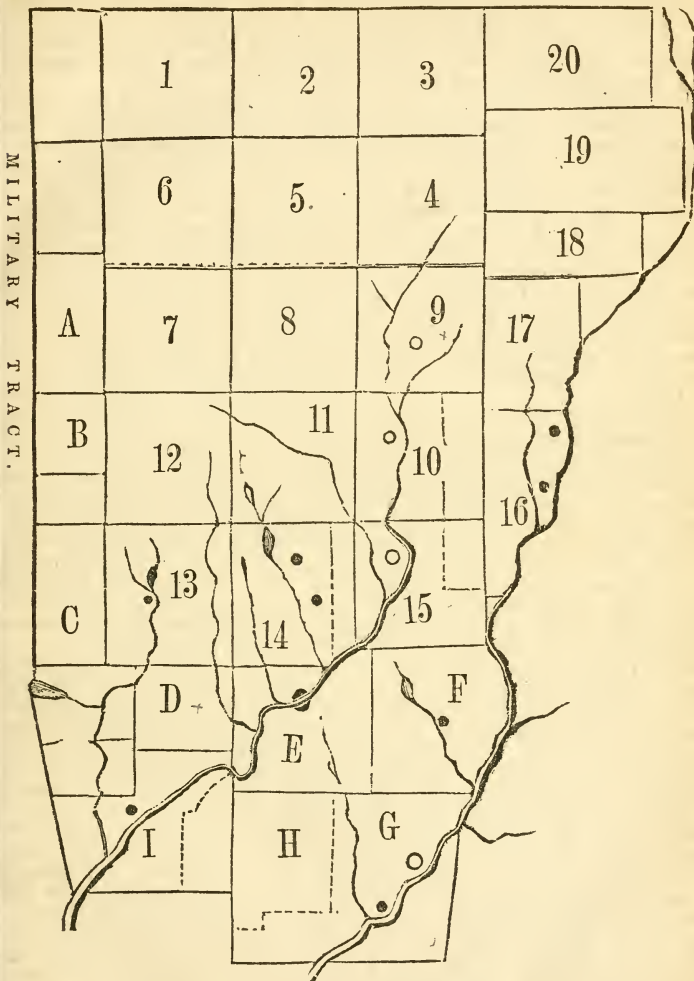
We have now ascertained in what manner that portion of the county known by the style and designation of the twenty townships or Governor's purchase came to be the property of the State. Two communications were received by us from the State department relative to the treaty signed at Fort Schuyler; one of the two, omits any mention of the Tuscaroras as a party to this cession. The precise date of the treaty perfected at Fort Herkimer, is June 28th 1785. The date of the one arranged at Fort Schuyler, is September 22d, 1788.

The Twenty Townships, or Governor's purchase are bounded on the north, generally, by the towns of Fenner, Smithfield and Stockbridge in Madison County; on the east by the town of Bridgewater in Oneida County, and below Bridgewater by the Unadilla river, except a few narrow gores intervening; on the south by Oxford, Smithville and Guilford; on the west by the gore separating the Towns from the military tract before referred to and explained.

Having given the profile of the Twenty Towns, and it appearing from this outline that they contain a large portion of the County, most of the north part; we will now recite or give a synopsis of the act of the legislature, passed February 25th, 1789, authorizing the creation or erection of these Townships.

The terms of the act required the Surveyor General to locate the Twenty Townships within certain specified lim-

MAP OF CHENANGO COUNTY, embracing the GOVERNOR'S PURCHASE or Twenty Townships, as exhibited by figures 1 to 20 inclusive. Doct. C. H. Eccleston Eng'r, Oxford.



References.—Township No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 20, in Madison County. Towns—no. 7 Otselic; 8, Smyrna; 9, Sherburne; 10, North Norwich; 11, Plymouth; 12, Pharsalia; 13, McDonough; 14, Preston; 15, Norwich; A, Lincklaen; B, Pitcher; C, German; D, Smithville; E, Oxford; F, Guilford; G, Bainbridge; H, Coventry; I, Greene.

its, as follows: Upon the eastern side of the lands then recently purchased of the Oneidas at Fort Schuyler; lying south of the lands reserved by this tribe of Indians; and being north of the territory purchased from the same tribe and the Tuscaroras by the treaty executed at Fort Herkimer and already alluded to as being made in June 1785. The Towns were afterwards surveyed out and numbered from one to twenty inclusive. A part of these towns are located in Madison County. The town of Nelson comprises all of the first township; Eaton the second; Madison the third; Hamilton the fourth; Lebanon the fifth; Georgetown the sixth; Brookfield the eighteenth and nineteenth. We then come to the twentieth township comprising the town of Sangersfield, in Oneida County.

The remaining eleven townships of the Governor's Purchase, are located in Chenango county, as follows: namely, Otselic comprises the seventh township; Smyrna the eighth; Sherburne the ninth; North Norwich part of the tenth; Plymouth comprises the eleventh; Pharsalia the twelfth; McDonough the thirteenth; Preston a part of the fourteenth; Norwich parts of the fourteenth and fifteenth; New Berlin comprises the sixteenth and parts of the tenth and fifteenth; Columbus comprises the seventeenth. We will enumerate the gore towns, although they lie to the west of the Twenty Towns and are not known on the map or survey of the Twenty townships as appears by the Surveyor General's map and field book on file with the Secretary of State. To name these towns will assist to keep up the connection of the gore with the Twenty towns. The gore as was remarked, is a tract left originally unsurveyed by the surveyor of the Twenty Towns, and by the surveyor of the east line of the military tract. A portion of the town of Cazenovia; all the town of DeRuyter, in Madison county; and the towns of Lincklaen, Pitcher and German in Chenango County, comprise the entire gore. The South bounds of the Twenty towns

are of course on a line with the south part of the gore, as also the north bounds. The north line of towns numbers 7, 8, 9, 17, and also Lincklaen in the gore, are the northern limits of Chenango.

It was customary at an early day to designate the various towns by their numbers, instead of the name which the town located upon the township might chance to bear. Thus, a Norwich, or Oxford or Sherburne citizen speaking of Pharsalia, always called it the twelfth. So also McDonough, the thirteenth; the name itself being rarely or never pronounced. Of late years, as the old inhabitants once so familiar with the Township numbers have passed away, this practice so common formerly, has fallen almost wholly into disuse.

Thus much of the location of the respective towns! In the survey there was run out three tier of towns east and west, containing an equal area or number of lots, and the Twenty towns also contain five tier of townships in length, running north and south with a like equal number of lots; it follows then, that fifteen of the towns are of equal size. The remaining five towns are controlled more or less by the Unadilla river, except Sangersfield the twentieth town, and are of unequal proportions.

But to proceed with the explanation or synopsis of the act for the survey of the towns. By giving an abstract of the act, we shall best express the origin of the towns and the objects the State designed to accomplish when the survey and sale of this section of the County was undertaken.

The Surveyor General Simcon De Witt, was instructed to cause twenty townships to be laid out and *actually* surveyed; each township to be 500 chains square, or so nearly so as circumstances might admit. After running the lines, the Surveyor General was to cause a monument to be erected at the ends of the outlines, and also at the termination of every fifty chains between the same; provided, local circumstances would admit of the town lines being run straight.

After the outlines were run the Surveyor General was further required to survey out a line parallel to any of the straight lines of each township, the whole extent of the same, so as to divide each Township into *four equal sections*, as nearly equal and as nearly square as circumstances would permit. These subordinate lines also to be defined by boundary monuments. After completing this part of the survey, the Surveyor General was next to draught an accurate map of the Twenty towns so laid out and on his map was to divide each of the towns into lots containing 250 acres each, or as nearly that number of acres as the broken nature of certain portions of the territory to be measured out would permit. The lines defining the limits of the lots were to be drawn through the marks or monuments ordered to be made at intervals of fifty chains, as before stated, and also the marks or monuments made at the termination of every 500 chains; where the line of the lots might chance to fall on the outlines of the Townships. The lines so to be drawn for bounding the lots, were to be made parallel and at right angles to the straight sides of the Townships.

The lots in each township to be numbered successively with the numbers from one to one hundred inclusive. A copy of the map and the field book, containing a description of the soil, timber, creeks, etc., in the respective towns was ordered to be placed on file in the Secretary of States office for public inspection. Another copy of each, containing the same description &c., to be kept for public view in the Surveyor General's office. The act further provided that on every township surveyed out, one lot was to be marked (on the map) "*Gospel*"; another lot in the same town to be designated on the map "*School*." These two lots to be located as near to the center of each Township as might be, and to be reserved for religious and educational purposes.

The act required the Surveyor General to complete his surveys, after which

it also enjoined upon the Commissioners of the land office, assisted by the advice and skill of the Surveyor General, to select five of the towns out of the Twenty townships as reserved or choice lands, which were to be sold only for gold or silver or to redeem a certain stock which the State had issued in the form of bills of credit. The act further devolved upon the Commissioners the duty of fixing or establishing such price or rates per acre for the respective Twenty towns as should be best calculated to accomplish a ready sale and at the same time ensure the most revenue to the Treasury department. But they were restricted in the exercise of their discretion, to a minimum of three shillings per acre. Below this amount they could not sell, and if no bid amounted to this sum, the sales could not take place. The three shillings were doubtless of the old currency, computed by pounds, shillings and pence. The Commissioners were to advertise the towns for sale in public prints published in the Cities of Albany and New York, by giving the public notice that up to a day named, which day was not to exceed three Calendar months; bids, or written proposals to purchase, would be received at the State department: at the end of three months from the first publication of the notice no further applications to be entertained.

The sales contemplated by this act were very extensive, and being so, it will readily be perceived that three months advisement to the public, was an inexcusably brief space of time to assemble purchasers. At that day, owing to indifferant roads and in many instances the absence of roads, intelligence circulated tardily between distant sections of the State and the United States. The City of New York where the sales transpired, as we are informed, was (sixty years elapsed,) for the want of speedy conveyances, as distant, and even more so, in point of time, from the frontier verge of the State, than Europe now is. The effect then of this short warning to the body of the people was what might have been unmistakably predicted. It fore-

closed the applications of distant people who desired to purchase for actual settlement. In the sequel these towns in many cases fell naturally, easily and unavoidably into the hands of jobbers and wealthy capitalists who were in attendance upon legislative action, and always on the alert for lucrative investments. The best parcels of this portion of the public property, had no sooner fallen gracefully into the possession of extensive patentees, than they advanced from the three to four shillings paid the State, to twenty shillings per acre on sales to small purchasers.

It is certain, however, that while the patentee realized an advance, over first cost, from fifteen to seventeen shillings the acre, after paying the Surveyor General and Commissioners and Secretary of State their emoluments, the purchaser enjoyed the privilege of selection among the most eligible and most fertile localities lying within a town. This left (undisposed of) refuse acres upon the patentee at first unsaleable. But time corrected that ; for the unsaleable patches at length came to be sold at an advance over the first costs to purchasers of the select lots by reason of their vicinity to adjacent settlements.

It must be apparent to all observers, that the accumulation and final attainment to the greatest wealth in the State and Nation, which various citizens have amassed at different epochs in the annals of the country ; had its small beginnings in very nearly every instance, in fortunate wild land purchases. Such is the origin of the Wadsworth, Astor, Van Rensselaer, Peter Smith and numerous other mammoth fortunes. At or near the fountain of the public domain these *millionaires* early walled in those incipient streams of riches, ever flowing from this source ; and which in after years expanded into full seas of solid gold. But the wealth derived from land sales is slow and tedious in returns to the adventurer for many years ; the outlay to meet taxes oftentimes exceeding the income received from buyers. Mr. Wadsworth himself once felt, with all his estate he

was a poor man. The profits spring from inflamed prices as settlers break up the wilderness and spread the arts and conveniences of life around the great proprietaries. When this is done and it seldom happens until after the lapse of considerable space of time, certain riches are the consequent. When the land sales were advertised the citizens of Norwich, or some of them employed Capt. John Harris a seaman, who early came into the country and who was a man of energy and enterprise, to set out for New York and buy up the land contained in the present village plot, also up and down the valley. He arrived too soon and felt impatient at doing nothing. He engaged to take charge of a vessel bound out on a coastwise voyage and left an agent behind to bid for the farms in case accident should prevent his return before the time the sales transpired. Mr. Cutting was present and offered one penny over the agent, or three shillings and seven pence and took the land. Mr. C. resold to the principals of Capt. Harris for twenty shillings afterwards. So we are advised by the contemporaries of the Captain.

Soon after this, Mr. Cutting died, and while on his death-bed, a few minutes before his decease, he conveyed the fifteenth town to Melancthon Smith and John Stites of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, and Smith came on and executed contracts to the pioneers. It is said Mr. Smith did this as an act of kindness to the settlers who must have suffered by the death of Mr. Cutting, except for the conveyance. But the Power farm was bought by him from the State. He had reclaimed it before the State Surveyors laid out the towns. He paid three shillings an acre, but adjusted the purchase price by boarding and lodging and acting as launderer to the surveyors as they came through this then wild region.

To come again to the act of survey and sale of the towns : a book was ordered to be provided by the Surveyor General to be placed in his office in which was to be recorded the names of applicants for purchases, if in writing,

and at the end of the three months, if there was but one solicitation for the same lot, tract or township, a certificate of purchase was to be made out and delivered to the bidder as evidence of his eventual right to call for a patent. If on the contrary more than one bid or application was made for the same lot, tract or township; in that event the Surveyor General was empowered to set up the tract so applied for at public sale to be struck down at the highest offer; provided the bids or any of them were as high as the limitation or minimum price of three shillings. If there happened to be a competition among purchasers and none offered more than the three shillings for the same location; in that case the Surveyor General was empowered to cast lots to determine which one should prevail in the purchase. By another provision of the law, every buyer was compelled to satisfy, in addition to the purchase price, *pro rata* charges to defray or liquidate the demands of the Surveyor General, for time employed and expenses incurred in perfecting the survey of the particular town in which the purchase happened to be made. The terms of payment on sales by the State were one-fourth of the purchase money down; the residue or remainder to be paid to the Treasurer or Auditor within the six months ensuing on pain of a forfeiture to the treasury of the land purchased; and also of five pounds additional to the loss of the land and the purchase money already paid. When an applicant for the towns prevailed, he received from the Surveyor General a certificate of purchase, which, when all payments were adjusted, entitled him to a patent under the great seal of the State. The patents were usually filed or recorded in the Secretary of State's office; although there is no requirement in the act itself enjoining upon the patentee this formal ceremony. We are advised by the County Clerk that the original patents from the State have been in no instance placed upon the county records.

Satisfaction to the Surveyor General

for his services, was to be made by a tender to the officer, on obtaining the certificate of survey and purchase, of either gold or silver coin, or a formal transfer to him of the same public securities, to the amount of his claim, as the State was to receive in liquidation for the select five towns before mentioned.

For the fifteen towns remaining, after setting off or apart, the five select towns from the twenty, the Surveyor General was authorized to receive in payment for the State, gold or silver coin; the security or public stock already described; and he was also to accept from the patentee all public stocks at any time issued by the Treasurer or Auditor of the State, or by the Auditors appointed to liquidate and adjust the accounts of the troops of this State in the service of the United States.

In every patent granted by the State to the purchaser or purchasers in the twenty towns, there is inserted a reservation clause continuing the property in the government to all gold and silver mines, that might chance, in all after time, to be discovered within the twenty districts. This limitation however is confined to gold and silver; allowing the patentee to enjoy every other species of mineral wealth which his purchase might happen to contain. Indeed, in our times, by a general law of the State, this reservation is contained or expressed in all patents granted, or if it is not, the law itself, *ex vi termini*, excepts or reserves the right to the people.

In the year 1790 the State was yet suffering in her finances from the ruinous drain made to supply its quota of resources for maintaining the late revolutionary contest. To worry through with embarrassments the local government was constrained to make loans, issue scrip or stock, or in mercantile phrase, to employ its credit. At that day the public securities were much below their nominal or par value in gold and silver. This circumstance enabled the patentees to consummate bids for their parts of the fifteen towns, not reserved, far below the

amount really offered and accepted, and in many, if not most instances, very far below the three shillings minimum. There cannot be a doubt, but that most of the considerable purchasers exchanged coin for securities, then much under their nominal value, and the real value of gold and silver, when the securities were worth all the time as much as the land office as the intrinsic price of the precious metals. At this day, land agents in the young States of the west, buy up County and State orders and stocks with which they pay taxes at rates much inferior to the tax assessed. In many States these orders and stocks, although ever received in payment of dues to the several States at the nominal amount, are nevertheless generally at an ebb in market. The greatest depression usually occurs after the fall settlements with the collector. Eastern land holders usually remit funds or accept drafts from their western agents for payment of taxes and pay the sum assessed on the land; while the agent employs his own funds to buy up public securities at a discount, which he passes off to the collectors at par, and so charges his principal. There are to this practice, it may be remarked, very numerous exceptions.

The tariff of fees charged by the various state officers to purchasers by authority of this law of 1789 was in conformity to the following scale: to the commissioners of the land office, for patenting a township, the buyer paid the sum of three pounds: for patenting the half of a township or any number of acres exceeding half, but less than a town; the sum of two pounds: for every parcel or tract less than the half of a township; one pound: if only a single lot of two hundred and fifty acres was bought; eight shillings was paid the Commissioners. In all of these instances the Secretary of State, who was, ex-officio, private secretary or clerk to the board of Commissioners, and who had to perform a large share of the labor of this body and also superintend the details and minutiae of the sales and transfers; to this official personage was allowed the

same charges as were permitted to the others collectively.

The Commissioners of the land office were composed in 1786 of the Governor of the State—the Lieutenant Governor—the Speaker of the Assembly—the Secretary of State—the Attorney General—the Treasurer and Auditor. Any two of the above if attended by the Governor, constituted a board and could make sales of the lands belonging to the State. In the year 1788, the legislature by act fixed the dimensions of land measure, as follows: An acre must contain 160 square perches or rods; each perch or rod to be 5 1-2 yards in length; each yard to be 3 feet; each foot to be 12 inches; so that when an acre of land was 16 rods in length, it must be 10 rods in breadth.

By another clause in this law of 1789, the territory sold was to be exempt from all taxes for the space of seven years from the date of the patent. After this period it was to contribute to the support of government, both local and state.

This brings us to the close of the abstract of the law, authorizing the survey and sale of the entire northern section of the county, except what is contained in the town of Lincklaen, in the gore. The surveyors first ran out the county into townships; the next division was made by the quartering lines; dividing the straight townships into "four equal sections," at present called "*quarters*," each numbering from one to four. Different parts of the same towns are frequently called at this day by the last appellation. Norwich has some territory, best known to the citizens by the style of "north," and "south east quarters." The same in Sherburne and other towns. After the quarters, came the lines 50 chains apart running with the four main points of the compass and bounding the 250 acre lots. To many the foregoing details will, we fear, prove dry and unentertaining. But it was the request of the elder residents, that the twenty towns, or so much of them as formed the ancient landmarks of the county, should be deliberately and succinctly explained.

We have endeavored, but so far in vain, to ascertain the precise time the Surveyor General, Mr. DeWitt, located the towns in this County. We are given to understand by some of the earlier settlers that the surveys were continued for more than one year before their final completion. We think they must have been finished in the fall of 1789, or very early in 1790. Probably in the latter year. The act authorizing them was passed in the winter of 1789 and the Engineer Corps no doubt commenced explorations some time in the spring ensuing. The most information we have to lay before the public at this particular moment is the *certificates of survey*, made out to purchasers after sale by the State: the date of the one first delivered is November 2d. 1792. The first patent was granted on the 29th December of the same year; it was made out to Mr. Leonard M. Cutting and called for the fifteenth town, or parts of Norwich and New Berlin. The second certificate bears date 3d November in the same year and covered a portion of the fourteenth town. The purchase of the west part of the township now Preston was made November 3d. 1792, by Melancthon Smith and Marinus Willett; no patent can be found at Albany running to these men. The number of acres purchased, were 7049. Mr. Cutting purchased the east part of the same town including Norwich in part and perhaps a part of Preston. Mr. Cutting's purchase was November ninth in the last mentioned year. On the same day Mr. Cutting also bought the eleventh town, or Plymouth. He received a patent for the two purchases January 1st., and June 28th 1793. The seventh town, now Otselec, was bought by Robert C. Livingston on the 12th January 1793, and on the 31st of the same month his patent was issued. William S. Smith purchased the eighth town now Smyrna, also the ninth, or Sherburne; his certificate was made out April 6th 1793; patent issued 16th April, in the next year. The tenth town, now North Norwich, and a part of New Berlin, was taken up by James Tal-

madge and Ezra Thompson, both supposed to be residents of Dutchess county. No date to this patent. Thomas Ludlow and Josiah Shippey, purchased the thirteenth town, now McDonough; the certificate issued February 6th 1793. No patent found. White Matlach and Jacob Hallett bought town twelve, or Pharsalia, on the 6th of April 1793. No patent discovered among the archives. The sixteenth town, or part of New Berlin and the seventeenth, or Columbus, bought by John Taylor February 2d 1793. Patent issued 14th of the same month 1797.

Out of the County, the remaining nine towns were bought up in the same manner. Webster, Savage and Williams, took the first town, or Nelson. William S. Smith the second, comprising Eaton, also the third, Madison; also the fourth, Hamilton; and also the fifth, Lebanon. Ludlow & Shippey bought number six, or Georgetown. Myers, Sanger & Morgan, purchased number twenty, now Sangersfield and part of Bridgewater. They also bought eighteen and nineteen, or Brookfield. The largest private purchaser was William S. Smith who bought upon his own account, or in trust for others, no less than six townships.

It now appears who were the first private owners of the twenty towns. For this the public are indebted, as well as for other valuable suggestions, concerning the twenty towns, to the politeness of the Hon. Samuel S. Randall of Albany, upon whose time and patience the writer has made many considerable drafts, every one of which, we are happy to announce, has been promptly and cheerfully honored. Chenango County contains, numerically speaking, twenty towns; but after this they will not be apt to be mistaken for the far-famed original twenty towns comprising the "Governors Purchase." It is true Chenango once did contain all of the original towns; but legislative action has curtailed it of its former fair proportions.

The County was once almost as large as the State of Delaware, but is so no longer. So also with Norwich. Once that

town boasted as within its limits, the sixteenth, thirteenth, tenth, twelfth, eleventh, fourteenth and fifteenth towns. Now the most distant boundaries of the town are nearly within cannon shot of each other. We will here correct an omission; we put down the twentieth town as Sangersfield. In 1797 it was divided and part set off to Bridgewater.

According to the act authorizing the establishment of the towns, as we have seen there were gospel and school lots. These were afterwards ruthlessly sold for the benefit of the State. Such plunder on the part of the authorities at Albany, was not for a moment acquiesced in by the intelligent and religious immigrants from New England, who had taken up farms within the towns. They remonstrated with the government, insisting but for Schools and Churches, not a soul had purchased. The law-making-power was pressed too strenuously to resist; in compliance with justice and the demands made, in the year 1805, the legislature appropriated out of the Western Land District for these purposes forty lots, of two hundred and fifty acres each or ten thousand acres in gross. These lots were set apart in a body, but where or what was the final disposition made of them, we are not advised. The forty lots corresponded in number and quantity of acres in each, to those set apart originally.

We now take final leave of the twenty towns. Dropping below these, we come next to Southern Chenango. For the information which we have relative to this portion of the county we are exclusively indebted to the attention of Mr. E. B. McCall of Oxford, who has sent us a sketch, which we adopt bodily, as elucidating the history of this part of the County better than any thing from our pen.

LAND TITLES IN SOUTHERN CHENANGO.

"The description of the boundaries of the original townships, patents and grants of land comprehended within that part of the County of Chenango,

situated south of the south bounds of the "Military tract;" the south bounds of the Brakle township and the south bounds of the twenty townships called the Governors Purchase may be comprehended in the following brief synopsis:

"*First*, the tract of land called "the gore," is bounded on the north by the south bounds of township fourteen in the Governors Purchase; on the south east by the Chenango river and on the west by the Chenango triangle, and according to public report, was granted originally by the State of New York, to Melancthon Smith and Marinus Willett and is now known as the Smith & Willett Patent south of Preston. This tract was subdivided by these patentees into 69 lots of about 100 acres each. The tract is situated in the north west part of the town of Oxford.

"*Second*, The tract of land called "the township of Fayette," is a part of a tract of land purchased by the State of New York of the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians in the year 1785 (already referred to,) and in the survey of that purchase into townships, soon after the sale by the savages, stands as number four and is bounded on the north by the south bounds of the Governor's Purchase; easterly by the Tianaderha or Unadilla river; on the south by the township of Clinton; on the west by the township of Greene, and on the north west by the Chenango river. This township was originally subdivided into 100 lots of about 640 acres each, as near as circumstances would admit, and patented by the State to various individual purchasers. This township now comprises the town of Guilford, the south eastwardly part of Oxford and a small portion of the north eastwardly part of Coventry.

"*Third*, The tract of land called the township of Clinton, which stands on the township division list number two, is bounded on the north by the township of Fayette; on the east by the line of property, so called, surveyed, marked and defined by one Simeon Metcalf,

in the year 1769, by beginning at the junction of the Tianaderha river with the Susquehanna, and running from thence south, nine degrees west seventeen and a quarter miles to the Delaware river; on the south by the township of Warren which is number one; and on the west by the township of Greene. This township was originally subdivided into 100 lots intended to be 640 acres, or a mile square, each. A tract from the north west part of this township containing 16,000 acres was granted to Robert Harper, Esq., by letters patent from the State under date January 4th 1787. By him it was redivided into lots of from 1,000 to 2,000 acres each and resold to various private purchasers. That part of the township of Clinton known as the Harper patent, constituted the east part of the town of Coventry. The residue of the township of Clinton is included in and constitutes the town of Bainbridge and was in part appropriated for the relief of a class of citizens, numbering about one hundred and forty-eight, best known to the world by the style or designation "Vermont Sufferers," by virtue of an act passed May 5th 1786, and an act amendatory of this act passed March 20th 1788.

"Fourth, The tract of land called the "Township of Greene," stands number three on the list of townships, and is bounded on the east by the township of Clinton; on the south by the township known as Jay & Rutherfords tract; and on the west and northwest by the Chenango river, and appears to have been originally subdivided on paper in the Secretary's office at Albany if not on the field, into lots of 640 acres each. From the east side of this township, a tract of land embracing 16,138 acres was granted by the State of New York to Walter Livingston, Esq. by letters patent dated 1788, and Mr. Livingston subdivided into 152 lots of about 106 acres each according to the field book of Rickitson Burlingame, surveyor of the tract. A portion of this tract constitutes the west part of the town of Cov-

entry; a portion also lies in the town of Oxford, and the residue in Greene.

"The residue of the township of Greene embracing 15,835 acres, was granted to Malachi Treat and William W. Morris, under letters Patent from the State in the year 1787 or 8 and called by them the "French Tract," and was subsequently by their agent Charles Buloign, with the assistance of Capt. John Harris, a surveyor, subdivided into about 150 lots of various sizes exclusive of the "French village Plot," situated on the east side of the Chenango river at the village of Greene. From the field books, this last subdivision appears to have been made in the year 1792 and was resurveyed by William McAlpin Esq. in the year 1807. This patent lies within the town of Greene.

"Fifth, The tract of country called "the Chenango Triang'le," is bounded on the north by the Military tract, the Brakle tract and thirteenth town in the Governor's Purchase; on the east by the Gore; on the south east by the Chenango river and on the south west by the Tioughnioga or Onondaga river; this tract is believed to have been granted by the State of New York to one William Hornby of Great Britain and by him or his employee Justin B. Smith subdivided into four townships, beginning with number one on the Tioughnioga river at the north west corner of the tract and continuing with towns numbers two and three across the north end and finishing with number four extending from a little above the village of Greene down to the Chenango Forks and up the Tioughnioga river to the South line of township number one. The townships were again subdivided into lots of various sizes according to circumstances. Townships number one and parts of two and four are now included within the county of Broome. A part of numbers two and three constitute the town of Smithville. The residue of number three is a part within the limits of the town of Oxford and a part in the town of Greene. The re-

mainder of two and four lying in the county are located within the limits of the town of Greene. The lands of the triangle have been managed by Mr. Hornby's agents, the principal one residing at Canandaigua has grown into a princely fortune by his agencies for foreign landlords.

We have now accounted for the sale of every portion of the county, excepting the towns of German, Lincklaen and Pitcher, covering that part of the Gore within the county. We cannot particularize the year when this part of Chenango was sold to patentees by the State. It was after the sale of the twenty towns; probably about 1795. Part of the Gore was originally appropriated by the State to build roads. The rest was bought by patentees, as appears by Winterbotham's Atlas, published in 1796. Sackett & Co. bought part, and also Watkins and Flint.

By reference to the patents and their dates, it appears the Harper patent is the oldest in the county. The south part of the county was settled before the north, by several years.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY.

Having given a full account of the Governor's Purchase, we next proceed to a general description of the County itself. Before entering upon details, it will not be inappropriate to copy so much of the act of March 15th 1798, as called the county, as it originally stood, into existence. Oneida County was organized from Herkimer by the same act. The "Historical Collections of New York," inform the public, that Oneida was organized nine years earlier. This is but one of the many errors we have already detected in this work, as well as in the Revised Statutes, where the two works treat upon the organization of Counties and towns. How dates could have been so misapprehended, we are at a loss to conjecture. We are victim to the erroneous dates in the statutes in a few instances, which mistakes will be correc-

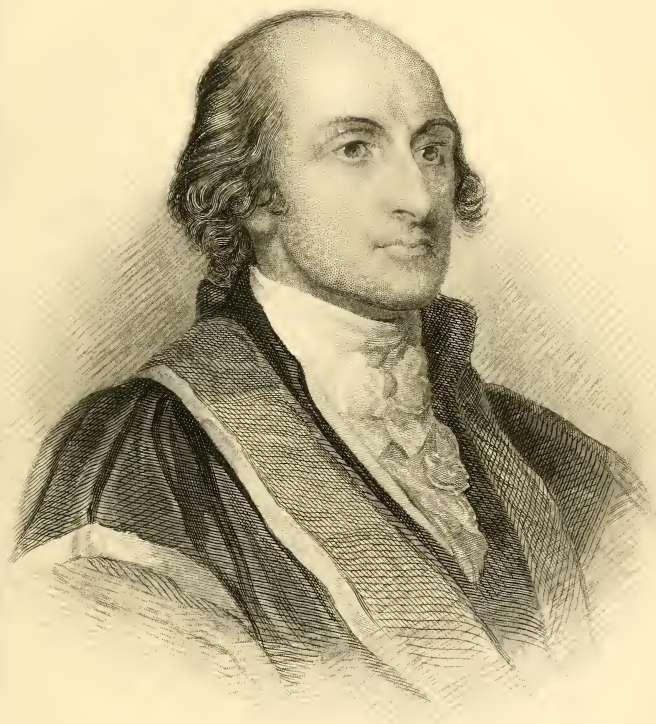
ted, when the proper opportunity offers.

BOUNDARIES.—The original boundaries of the county, according to the act of 1798, were as follows:

"All that part of the counties of Herkimer and Tioga, included within the following bounds, to wit, beginning at the southeast corner of Onondaga, thence a direct course to the confluence of the Tioughnioga and Chenango rivers, thence up the last mentioned river to the northwest corner of a tract of land granted to John Jay and others, thence along the North bounds thereof, and the same line continued until it meets the west line of Clinton township, thence along the same, south to the most northwesterly corner of the town of Warren, thence easterly on the division line between the said townships of Clinton and Warren, to the line of property, thence northerly along the west bounds of the counties of Delaware and Otsego, to the town of Bridge-water, in Herkimer County, thence on the southerly and westerly line thereof to the north bounds of the Twenty Towns, so called, thence along the same westerly to the southwest corner of lot No. 50, in the first allotment of a tract of land called New-Petersborough, thence Northerly on the west line of said lot No. 50 and 69, to the south line of New-Stockbridge, thence the shortest line to the main branch of the Oneida creek, thence northerly down said creek to the Oneida Lake, thence westerly along the southerly shore of the Oneida lake to the county of Onondaga, thence southerly along the said county of Onondaga to the place of beginning."

The territory included within the above boundaries was declared by the act, to be a separate county, by the name of CHENANGO.

The present boundaries of the county as established by law are as follows; "Beginning at the southeast corner of township number eighteen of the twenty townships, and running thence westerly along the south bounds thereof, to the east bounds of township number



JOHN JAY

J. Jay

Engraved by J. C. Rogers



nine; then northerly along the same, to the southeast corner of township number four; then along the south bounds of township number four, five, and six, and the same continued to the military tract; then southerly along the east bounds of the military tract, to the southeast corner thereof; then with a straight line to the confluence of the Tioughnioga and Chenango rivers, and to the east bank of the last mentioned river; then up said river along the eastern bank thereof, to the northwest corner of a tract granted to John Jay and John Rutherford; then along the north bounds thereof, and the same line continued, until it meets the west line of the township called Clinton, in a map made by the surveyor-general of this State; then southerly along the same to the southwest corner thereof; then east along the south bounds thereof, to the county of Delaware; then northerly along the counties of Delaware and Otsego, to the place of beginning."

TOPOGRAPHY.---In the year 1823, or twenty seven years ago, the "Oxford Gazette" printed a series of articles, relating to the county. At the time of commencing the history we were not aware of the publications in 1823. They did not give much particular information, and did not at all contain any account of the first settlements, nor of the early pioneers. For a file of the Gazette containing these sketches we are under obligations to the Hon. John Tracy. We extract a very graphic delineation of the county itself in order that the reader may compare the past with the present. The editor of the Gazette discontinued because of the exceeding great difficulty experienced in obtaining the requisite historical matter from the various towns. It is to be regretted the enterprise of the Oxford publisher was not better patronized; since a full history completed at that time would be of great interest now. The writer in an able manner says:

"The principal part of the county lies in the region of what is called the grand

Alleghany ridge of mountains; its surface is therefore elevated and hilly; the hills run generally in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction and are separated by vallies of moderate width.—The Susquehannah river runs across the southeast corner of the county, and opens a wide and beautiful valley of intervale land of a superior quality, extending from the southeast line of the county, to the mouth of the Unadilla river, winding a distance of about fourteen miles. The hills on the sides of the river are precipitous and lofty, approaching almost to the character of mountains; and formerly were thickly covered with the towering and majestic white-pine, so justly styled the pride of the American forest. This valley with a slight interruption, continues up the Unadilla river to the north line of the county, presenting a tract of uncommonly fine and fertile land, particularly adapted to the cultivation of grain. It is of various width, expanding towards the west as you proceed up the river.

"At the distance of a few miles west of this valley lie the elevated towns of Coventry, Guilford, the eastern section of Greene, Oxford, Norwich, Sherburne, the eastern parts of New Berlin and Columbus. The soil of this range of highlands is loam, intermixed with gravel, stony, and hard to till, but is exceedingly fertile in grain and grass, and richly rewards the ploughman and grazier. The forest trees are beech, maple, birch, ash, elm, linden, chesnut, oak, poplar, tulip, hemlock, with less pines than is found on the hills near the river.

"West of this range of hills opens the charming valley of Chenango, formed by the river and its numerous branches. This river having at its source an east and west branch uniting at Sherburne, rises in Madison county, near the head waters of the Oriskany and Oneida Creeks and pursuing a southwesterly direction winds through the whole extent of Madison and Chenango Counties, part of the county of Broome and

falls into the Susquehannah at Binghampton or Chenango Point. This delightful valley for the beauty of its winding stream, its richly fringed margin of highly cultivated fields, its gentle and graceful slopes, its easy and varied acclivity, its picturesque landscapes, mellowed with all the variegated hues of verdure and felicity, is scarcely surpassed by any section of the United States. In this far reaching valley are situated the pleasant and flourishing villages of Binghamton in Broome county; Greene, Oxford, Norwich and Sherburne in Chenango county; also Hamilton in Madison county.

"Beyond this valley to the westward, commences another and yet higher range of most excellent farming lands. No better grazing lands can be found in any region in the same latitude than are contained in the towns of Smithville, Preston, Plymouth, Smyrna, McDonough, and Pharsalia. This is abundantly proved by the numerous heads of fine cattle, and the flocks of sheep that are every year driven from these towns to our different markets. The degrees of comfort, independence and wealth which are hence derived to the farmers of these towns, are facts that speak for themselves, and are the best evidence of industry and the excellence of the soil. The forest trees of this range are similar to those east of the valley of the Chenango, on the Guilford range.

"The towns of Pharsalia, Otselic and German are principally watered by the Otselic river and its numerous branches. This stream runs through the northwest corner of the county and falls into the Tioughnioga river, in the town of Lisle, in Broome county. The lands on the Otselic and its branches, are of a superior quality, better adapted to the cultivation of grain, than the Preston range. The timber in this locality is the same as that already described.

"The whole surface of Chenango is beautified and enriched with innumerable springs, brooks and rivulets of the purest water, affording desirable sites for mills of almost any power or description ;

and the saw-mills have heretofore produced immense quantities of lumber for Baltimore, Philadelphia and other southern markets.

"Small lakes or ponds, of transparent, healthy water, have been found in almost every town in the county, but the number is not precisely known. These, together with the different streams, are plentifully stored with fish. In no case have these waters been known to render the climate unhealthy.

"The kinds of grain most extensively cultivated are wheat, rye, indian corn, barley, oats and flax. Potatoes and the various garden vegetables and melons, common to the climate, thrive well.

"Of fruits, apples both of the common and superior sorts are, in most seasons, abundant. The valley of the Chenango, particularly in the middle and northern sections, appears extremely favourable to the plum; and abundance of the most delicious and fine flavoured are produced almost every year. Grapes grow spontaneously in the field, and the finest exotics are cultivated in gardens.

"The principal sources of wealth to the farmers are neat stock, wool and the dairy. A large supply of maple sugar, is manufactured every year; and for a few years past, immense quantities of what are called "Black Salts," produced from the lixivium of ashes, have been made into Pot and Pearl Ash for foreign markets."

The main streams in the county, or abutting upon the borders of the County, are the Unadilla, the Tianaderha below the confluence of Butternut creek, (sometimes called the Unadilla,) the Susquehannah, the Chenango and the Geneganslet rivers. The chief creeks are the Otselic, the Canasawacta and the Brakle. The Susquehannah crosses the southeastern corner of the county. The Chenango river, one of the principal branches of the Susquehannah, flows southerly through the centre of the county. The Unadilla River, also a considerable branch of the Susquehanna, forms most of the eastern bounds of the county. The Geneganslet, Canasawacta and

Otselic streams have rapid currents affording abundance of eligible mill sites.

The Geneganslet flows nearly south. The Canasawacta creek, rising in the hills of Pharsalia and fed by streams having their source in Smyrna and Otselic, flows abruptly south easterly, until it falls into the Chenango river near the centre of the county.

The main water courses in the county and those bounding the county, flow from north east to south west, more particularly so the Chenango river; this stream striking the county near its north east bounds flows obliquely to the south-west corner of Greene, from whence it bears out beyond the west line of the county.

These frequent streams are curtained with a succession of high hills or banks, winding as the waters wind. The greatest altitude of the hills between rivers is from two to four hundred feet. Along the banks of the main streams the country is flat, sometimes undulating, for a space, when the eminences rise gently, occasionally abruptly. The same range of hills, whether rising gently or abruptly, almost always attain a uniform height. When they rise abruptly, they end in peaks, which appear to be, but in reality are not, above the most elevated table lands of the same group.

The uplands of the County, running from northeast to southwest are intersected at short intervals by diminutive streams of pure, cold water, coursing at right angles, or nearly so, with the larger ones. These cut through the highlands narrow gorges with steep banks, until they approach the main valleys, when the country flattens out into spacious plains. The streams are mostly known as the "mountain brook." The soft water of the brook bursts out from the hill-sides far back from the rivers.

The current leaps impetuously over steep and pebbly, often rocky, beds, until checked in its rapid career by the flat lands below. On the banks of these streamlets stand the hemlock, the pine and the evergreen; another growth of

beech, maple, elm, sassafras and wild-cherry contrast agreeably with these.

The different growths intertwine branches and so mingle foliage in summer as to exclude from the waters the penetrating rays of a vertical sun. In these shaded glens is domiciled the spotted trout, about the only tenant of the solitude.

The uplands of the county for the most part are easy of access to the plough-man, the grazier and his herds. The apex of the hills spread out into levels extending often as far as the width of the river valleys. These passed over, the reverse side of the eminences descend much as their opposite arose. There is in reality but one grand ascent of country between rivers and it lies at a point nearly equi-distant between the large streams. Along the slopes of the high grounds, parallel with the rivers, flow occasional brooks with high banks much after the manner of the rivers. The banks form a series of ridges along the highlands, causing the roads across country to be uneven and heavy to travel. When the traveller overcomes the high range of uplands, he often beholds (lying east and west at his feet,) two river valleys. This frequently takes place on the high grounds separating the Chenango and Unadilla rivers. The same occurs at several points between the Chenango valley and the Tioughnioga or Onondaga river flowing through Cortland county. The hills west of the Chenango valley are, it may be observed, much controlled or modified, and their direction is greatly disturbed by the Canasawacta and Otselic creeks.

We have not learned where the precise summit level or highest altitude of the group of hills west of the Chenango valley and east of the Onondaga is to be found. In passing from the County seat to Cortland village, after ascending the country for some eight miles, the valley of the Onondaga or Tioughnioga opens up to the view and is obvious to the naked eye. We give it as our opinion, although we confess to speak without much light upon the subject, that this is the

highest part of Chenango. Standing upon this eminence we look upon the range of hills and valleys stretching to the west, and out of the county, until the upper country finally escapes the vision behind the horizon. Turning to the east the eye rests upon the group of uplands lying beyond the Chenango river.

The soil of the uplands of the county rests either upon rocky beds or upon a substratum of hard earth impervious to water and the plough, whenever it chances to show itself above the surface of the earth.

The most natural production of the uplands is grass, which grows spontaneously. Of late years the land is found to be essentially aided by the application of plaster paris. The grass of the hills grows less rank and luxuriant than in the valleys, but the hill crop is far sweeter, more nutritive and substantial. Vegetation on the hills is delayed in the spring beyond the valleys by the longer tarry the snow makes upon the uplands. But when the sun at length breaks warmly upon the hills, vegetation seems to take as rapid start as in the valley.

When the sun exerts its influence upon the hills, they speedily throw off their winter dress and put on a rich embroidery of herbage, and continue to wear it until late in autumn.

The soil of the valleys is open, porous and intermixed with gravel in places. It has not the substratum or "hard pan" that prevents the hill lands from leaching. Owing to this cause it does not retain manure so permanently as the highlands, but requires more frequent replenishing. In numerous localities the vernal and autumnal flow of the rivers, fertilizes the otherwise jaded mold of the plains.

The face of the country may be said to bear a miniature resemblance to that ridge of the Alleghanies lying in the State of Virginia. The peaks in that State are certainly more formidable far more abrupt and incomparably more in the distance. So distant indeed are many of them as to be faintly seen through

our strongest telescopes. Standing upon the more elevated parts of the Chenango hills, at the rising or setting of the sun, when the heavens are clear, the spectator will look off upon the same wild grouping and grand assemblage of distant uplands; the same gauze covering of dim haze; the same magic tinge of sombre blue that forever reposes upon the most elevated mountain tops in Virginia. Preceding the thunder storm, the hills in this county wear all the various hues sometimes observed upon the Catskill mountains, when the sky is overcast. Unlike the Catskills, however, clouds do not float around the high peaks of the County without rising over them; nor does the tempest drive at the base of the hills, while their heads are visited by a serene sky accompanied with brilliant sunshine.

Geographically speaking, the county is situated between 42 degrees, 12 minutes and 42 degrees and 44 minutes north latitude, and 1 degree 02 minutes and 1 degree 36 minutes east longitude from the city of Washington, and something over one hundred miles from the Capitol of the State.

The Chenango valley is midway the county, about 160 feet below the summit level of the river in Madison county and 546 feet above the canal level in the city of Utica. The county contains, according to the State Map, 804 square miles and an area of 514,800 acres of soil.

GEOLOGY.—When the history was undertaken we promised some information appertaining to the Geological Structure of the County. Geology like Chemistry is yet comparatively in its youth. But as it has the solid basis of truth to rest upon, it is destined to spread among men and unfold to a demonstrable certainty, the hidden sources and inmost secrets of the whole habitable world. The great patron of this science, Baron Cuvier, a German, has led us nearly as far below, as Newton did above the surface of the earth.

In contemplating the theories and speculations of Cuvier, there is perhaps as much to enlarge the understanding

and inflame the imagination as in the astronomical pursuits of Newton. The eye, a powerful source of the imagination, is not in Geology as in Astronomy, travelled so far as the "solar walks and milky way;" but the minds-eye viewing the arcana of the Planet which we inhabit, is as much surprised and even more confounded by the teachings of geology than with the sublimities of Astronomy.

Geology is defined in the *Encyclopaedia Americana* as the doctrine or science of the structure of the earth or terraqueous globe, and of the substances which compose it; or the science of the compound minerals or aggregate substances which compose the earth, the relations which the several constituent masses bear to each other, their formation, structure, position and direction."

We prefer a more concise definition. We would denominate it a science which teaches the component substances of the terraqueous globe.

In the year 1842 a geological survey of the State was made, and a description of this County with others, by Lardner Vanuxem, published by order of the Legislature, is now before us. We shall copy into the history so much of the description as may tend to illustrate our subject in this particular. When the Geologist visited Chenango there was no guide to point out the different localities and he was forced to examine personally. This rendered his account much more brief than in counties where scientific citizens had made prior explorations.

"The lowest rocks of the County are those belonging to the Hamilton group, (named after Hamilton, in Madison co). It contains the Tully limestone, the Genesee slate, the Portage, the Ithaca, the Chemung and the Catskill groups.

"The whole of the *Hamilton group* is confined to the towns of Sherburne, Smyrna, and to a strip extending along the Unadilla river through Columbus and New Berlin, below the village of which it passes under the higher rocks. It is well exposed along Handsome brook, to

the north east of Sherburne village, exhibiting a mass from sixty to one hundred feet thick, chiefly of the dark-colored shale of the group, and abounding in its characteristic fossils. The falls in the creek are over the shale, which extends towards the mouth of the creek, and is soon lost under a covering of alluvion and soil, being the most southern part of the Chenango valley where seen.

"The same mass makes its appearance to the east of the village of Smyrna; beyond which, at a lower level, are those of the upper rocks of Hamilton Seminary, and of Ladd's quarry on the Canal above Sherburne.

"The ridge from Madison county, composed of the Hamilton group, appears to incline rapidly near Sherburne, so as to admit the Sherburne flags to appear at the level which they present, at less than two miles below the village.

"At North New Berlin, the group is exposed in the sides of the creek; and at the quarry, and mill-dam back of the village, on the road to Chenango valley. The fossils are numerous, and the same in all respects with those in the creek near Sherburne.

"The *Tully lime stone* was seen but in one locality at the northwestern part of Smyrna, on the road to DeRuyter village where the road crosses the west branch of the Chenango.

"*Genesee slate*.—But little was seen in the county; it does not form the same well defined rock to the east, which it does to the west. It appears along the same road as the Tully limestone, and at North New Berlin, &c.

"*Portage and Ithaca groups*.—These groups appear to be the surface rocks of the town of Lincklaen; of the west parts of Pitcher and German; of Otselic; the northern part of Pharsalia; all those parts of Smyrna, Sherburne and Columbus not occupied by the lower rocks; all but the south west part of Plymouth; the northern and west portion of North Norwich, the group extending on both sides of the Chenango below the village of Oxford; and the east side of the town of New Berlin, with the exception of those

parts towards the river, where the rocks of the Hamilton group hold position.

"Numerous quarries are opened in all the different towns in this group, for building-stones and for flagging. The better kind of the latter occurs in the lower part of the group. The first year of the survey, several points south of Sherburne were examined, among which was Mr. Skinner's quarry, where the flags were large and smooth, but the quantity of shale and slate upon them was considerable. At Church's quarry, about two miles from the village, they were more accessible, but not so good. The opening here is about twenty feet in depth upon a hill-side, rising about forty feet above the valley, and showing dark blue or blackish slaty shale with the sandstone. The same appear in the quarry at the back of North New Berlin village, showing the graphic fucoids of Cayuga lake, Ithica, &c.

"West of North Norwich, in the higher parts of the group, is the quarry of Mr. Harris, opened for the Chenango Canal. The Stone is of fair quality for the group, generally. Fossils are somewhat numerous, and it is the second best locality of the curtain fucoid.

"At Norwich, the County town, many quarries have been opened in the hill to the west of the village and elsewhere: the stone is inferior in quality to that of the upper group.

"*Chemung group*.—With the exception of the town of Greene, this group is rather obscure in the County. But little was positively recognized in the Chenango valley to the north of that town; although from its great thickness south and west, it should there appear; but it is also possible that it terminates short of the north line of the Catskill group, which may extend beyond it as at Oneonta, where no part of it was recognized and where the Catskill group appears to repose immediately upon the Portage and Ithaca groups, or a mass which corresponds with the side-hill quarries at Norwich and Port Crane, and which by the fossil character are referable only to those groups.

"The consequence of the Catskill group overlapping the Chemung group to the northeast of its range in the district, was not sufficiently attended to; but this can be no subject of surprise to those acquainted with like, or any other kind of investigations. After a full digest of the facts collected has been made, very little observation in the field will remove all difficulties. There were none supposed to exist, until too late in the survey to commence a reexamination.

"The only opening noticed in the hills at Greene, near the village, is Cameron's quarry, which was wrought for the Canal. In mineral character the contents of the quarry greatly resemble the group in most of its other localities. There are fossils which show identity. It also contains the large species of encrinite, so common, and which appears to be confined to this group: it is almost invariably replaced, in great part or wholly, with lamellar carbonate of iron. The upper part of the quarry is compact rock with concretions, and the lower part consists of thin and irregular masses with slaty shale: the floor of the quarry showed tentaculites.

"*Catskill group*.—This group has an extensive range in the county, covering a large area of the high ground between the Unadilla and Chenango, and between the Chenango and Geneganslette rivers, and extending in places to the west of the latter. It affords better building materials than the lower rocks of the southern counties, especially the grindstone variety, which occurs to the west of Chenango river. This latter rock is abundant in the towns of Preston, McDonough and Pharsalia. It is easily wrought, is of a good lively color, and is the handsomest building material of the whole southern counties."

The remarks of Mr. Vanuxem upon the structure of the rocks of Chenango are now closed. It may be added that the Portage and Ithaca groups *outcrop* (or display) themselves prominently on the hill directly west of the county seat. The same groups are supposed to outcrop again on the hill east of the same

place. The Hamilton group outcrops prominently on the hill side in Norwich village north, near the brewery, and at this spot some elegant fossils have been collected.

In the year 1840 a report upon *Economical Geology*, was submitted to the Governor by Ezra S. Carr, Assistant State Geologist.

The assistant says, "the green portion of the Montrose sandstone, from its superior hardness, affords a durable material for construction. Several quarries in this rock are opened along the Chenango valley, and many between Greene and Oxford. Among the most important, may be mentioned that of McNeals, four miles south of Oxford, on the east side of the canal.

From this quarry are obtained large and beautiful flagging stones, many of which are taken to Binghamton, on the canal, for this purpose.

"The *grit of Oxford* supplies the surrounding country with grindstones and whetstones; it is also used for mantle pieces, jambs, sinks &c. Although this rock is not arranged in layers, from its softness it is readily cut into any desirable form. The principal quarries in this rock are those of Simmons four miles south of Oxford, and Keaches, north of the village.

"*Erratic Blocks.*—In the more northern parts of the county of Chenango, masses of granite some of which are of enormous size, are seen. These diminish in size and number as you go south,

Succeeding Mr. Vanuxem's survey was one by Professor Emmons, made with reference to "*Agricultural Geology.*" We are not prepared to say whether or not the Professor was the founder of this new application of the science of rock formations to the art of husbandry. By analyzing the constituent chemical properties of the various groups or rocks, described by Mr. Vanuxem the Professor arrives at the true nature and adaptation to tillage of the soil in southern New York. But his theory is modified and limited by many contingencies; such as place, height, etc. The professor

says, "the atmosphere has its climate, and soils have theirs." That is, the temperature of the ground, beneath its surface, in the same locality or place, is found to vary in its mean several degrees. Again he says, "the climate of the soil has not," according to his observation, been determined for any latitude. Besides height and place, water is another modifying condition in the temperament of the earth. Thus wet lands are said to be cold; the application of the thermometer beneath the surface proves it.

The agricultural Geologists divided or classified the soils of the State, making six districts or different species of earth each dissimilarly capacitated from the other. This county is included in the fifth or southern agricultural district. Of these districts Professor Emmons made a state map, and colored it to mark the divisions. The map places this county in the "eminently grazing" district. The eminently grazing district denominated the fifth on the map, includes all that part of the State south of the line of Madison County. It goes as far west as the Pennsylvania line and east so far as the eastern slope of the Catskill mountains. When the words eminently grazing are used, it is not implied that in dairying, for instance, fewer pounds of butter are made from a cow; other things equal, out of this district than in it; but the difference consists in *quality* not quantity. It is this that makes Chenango butter and cheese always more acceptable in market than that manufactured in the grain growing or wheat regions.

Agricultural Geology starts with the hypothesis that the rocks lying beneath the earth either control or influence the nature of the soil spread out upon its surface.

"*The agricultural capacity of the Hamilton shales* (denominated by Mr. Vanuxem the Hamilton group.) These have a capability in production decidedly of a different kind from those of the lime stone shales in the other sections of the State. This change is due to the

constitution of the rocks mainly, although no doubt height, configuration and slope may modify to a certain extent the productive qualities of the region over which these rocks extend. Agriculturally they closely resemble the Hudson river rocks, and we may perhaps say with truth that this resemblance is no less than that of their lithological characters. Both series are remarkably destitute of calcareous matter, and both are distantly associated, if the expression is proper, with limestones below. Thus the Utica slate resembles the Marcellus slate: both are somewhat calcareous, and both succeed heavy beds of limestone, which constitute important landmarks or way boards for the determination of series and groups. In the Hudson river shales, a few bands of limestone, highly fossiliferous, appear towards the end or about the middle of the series. So in the Hamilton shales, impure calcareous bands are met with, though the calcareous seems to have been derived from the petrifications which they enclose. This shows that some calcareous matter existed in solution in the waters from which these rocks were separated or deposited; indeed the shales sometimes effervesce feebly. Now the main peculiarity which we find in these rocks consists in the ability to produce good pasturage; the soil possesses that light character which fits it for sweet grazing. There is always seemingly sufficient alumen or clay in these rocks to give the debris, the proper consistency to hold water, and this rarely to excess. There are two other circumstances which contribute to form a grazing country where these rocks predominate, namely, sweet and pure water, and a hilly surface. The water under such circumstances drains off rapidly and leaves the soil refreshed: it will not stagnate above or beneath the surface. If the grass herbage is not so luxuriant, it is sweeter and promotes the health of animals which feed upon it.

The atmosphere circulates freely over the hills and through the valleys, and

thereby rapidly renews the essential elements of life and activity. It is difficult to obtain the data from which the thickness of this rock can be determined. By estimating the fossiliferous and non-fossiliferous parts by themselves and summing up the result, we obtain from 1000 to 2000 feet thickness."

"*The Tully Limestone*.—The thickness of the Tully limestone is from twelve to fifteen feet: hence the mass is too inconsiderable to exert any influence upon the soil."

"*The Genesee Slate*, is estimated to be at its deepest point from 300 to 400 feet thick." As this rock scarcely shows itself in the county we will not copy into our pages its agricultural character.

"*Portage, Ithaca and Chenung groups*.---Agricultural character of the shales, flags and sandstones of these groups. The purposes of agriculture do not require an identification of those rocks: they belong chemically and mineralogically to the same class. The structure, the tendency to decomposition, and the soil which is formed by disintegration, does not differ essentially in Albany county from that of Alleghany and Cataaugus counties. These rocks have characters peculiar to themselves and which distinguish them from calcareous limestone formations. The greatest chemical difference is found in the absence of lime, except where it is derived from strata at a distance.—When the soil is first broken up, some lime may be found; but cultivation and the exposure to which a cultivated surface suffers from percolation (or filtering) of water soon removes the calcareous matter. The soil is then a silico—aluminous one, and may in some places be a stiff hard soil; in others the predominance of sand gives it character directly opposite." Our limits forbid giving further detail of the relations which these rocks bear to the capabilities of the soil.

"*Agricultural Character of the Catskill group*.—The soil is colored red, when derived from the Catskill rocks.

The red marls form a soil very well compounded of sand and clay: it derives an advantage from its color. Red soils are warmer and earlier, yet they do not bear drought so well as the brown and yellow loams. The soil of these rocks may be regarded as light, and being deficient in lime and alkalies, it is not so productive at first, nor so durable, as those of Onondaga and Cayuga counties. The *thickness* of the Catskill division of rocks is between 1800 and 2000 feet."

We now close this very imperfect sketch of agricultural Geology. The most we expect to do in this abstract branch of our subject is to call the attention of farmers to the vital importance of comprehending the geological and chemical properties of their respective farms. It is true all northern grains can be grown in the county. But some of them must, from physical and insuperable causes, come forth a sickly crop. For instance we have been shown an estimate of wheat grown in Chenango and Niagara county: while Niagara, the lime rock region, averages 18 bushels to the acre, Chenango produces but 12. Yet this is a high average for this section of the state, as some of our sister counties adjoining obtain promiscuously only from 9 to 11 bushels. By comprehending the capacity of the soil, and every growth is native to some soil, the most profitable tillage will be adopted. The sciences are put in motion to advance agriculture. They are about to realize what Dean Swift said, and said well, over one hundred years ago. That is "he who should cause two blades of grass to spring up where but one grew before, would approve himself the greatest benefactor of his race." Chemistry now analyzes the component parts of soils with as much facility as she detects poison in the human stomach. We may hope the time is not far distant when our academies and public schools will be prepared to instruct youth in agricultural chemistry and agricultural geology.

In this connection we may once

more propound the much disputed point; does Chenango County contain mines of mineral coal? We are aware that it has been dug for in various parts. In Madison county next north of Chenango considerable expense has been incurred to make explorations.

It is currently reported, among the citizens of Norwich village and firmly believed that many years ago numerous large lumps of pure anthracite coal were dug out of the hills lying along the Goodrich brook about one and a half miles south-east of that village. Witnesses say the discovery was made by an ingenious blacksmith who found it in quantities sufficient to supply all the fuel requisite to carry on his business.—To dispense with the article of charcoal was an economical consideration with the smith and induced him to preserve the locality and his knowledge of it a profound mystery. He did, it is true, after a time communicate the secret to a man in custody on the jail liberties; and this individual went regularly every Sunday, (the only day he could leave the limits) and obtained sufficient quantities to supply the discoverers wants through the coming week. The novelty of using this kind of coal for blacksmithing attracted the attention of the villagers, whose curiosity was immensely stimulated by the very concealment practiced.—The coal diggers were narrowly watched and observed to pass over the river bridge, east of the village, and thence to stroll off in a south-easterly course among the hills. After somewhat over one hours absence, they returned freighted with as much of the mineral as their shoulders could support. Others followed their trail but made no revelations.—At length the prisoner was released from his confinement and removed to unknown parts. The blacksmith died soon after and with him perished all knowledge upon this subject. Since his decease many unavailing efforts have been made to unearth this coal.

We have the foregoing statement from credible men who insist that they were personal observers of all that is

here asserted, and who are too intelligent to be deceived as to the facts.

It is represented also that the first settlers discovered coal along the same brook, but they concluded the Indians had deposited there and took no further thought upon the subject. When the Geologists visited Mathewson's Pond in New-Berlin they discovered in the rocks strata of coal about two inches thick and at the time were in doubt if it was not a continuation of the Pennsylvania strata. Specimens of coal in detached fragments have been collected in many parts of the county. We will defer our private judgement to that of the Geologists who after careful examinations now confidently assert that this county is below the dip of the coal mines in Pennsylvania. If their views are reliable and we do not see to the contrary, it follows that coal fields do not lie in the county. Others are, it must be admitted of quite contrary opinion.—But the belief of those who deny the existence of coal is partially confirmed by the failure of explorers to discover veins notwithstanding they have so often excavated for them.

It will be well to transcribe briefly some of the leading views of Geologists relative to the existence of coal fields north of that part of Pennsylvania directly south of this county.

"The Northern boundary of the coal region appears to be from the head waters of Tonawanda creek in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, across the counties of Potter, McKean, Warren and Venango in the same State, to the Ohio line." Comstock's Geology.

A report on this region has been made by R. C. Taylor, a practical engineer and geologist, for the Blossburg Railroad company, in which it is shown that the coal runs out, as the streams decline towards the north. The dip of the coal strata towards the west, is such as to require towards the east an elevation of over five thousand feet, in order to include the coal measures at the State line between New York and Pennsylvania, whereas, the hills there are probably less

than six hundred feet in altitude. This calculation, says Mr. Taylor, is made for the purpose of showing the futility of the expectation of tracing these coal fields in a northerly direction, beyond the limits at which they are discoverable.

Chenango County is in the third geological district of the State. Mr. T. A. Conrad, State Geologist, reports (see Assembly documents 161,) upon the probabilities of coal formations in this region, as follows:

"Owing to the great demand for this species of fuel in many sections of the district, repeated local examinations, not guided by science, have been made to ascertain its presence in veins or strata, but without success. The true relations of the rocks here to the carboniferous deposits of Pennsylvania, have hitherto been greatly misunderstood, and the comparisons with European formations remote from the true analogies."

Mr. Conrad then quotes Dr. Bucland, an English Geologist, who says: "Before we had acquired by experiment some extensive knowledge of the contents of each series of formations, which the geologist can readily identify, there was no *a priori* reason to expect the presence of coal in any one series of strata rather than another. Indiscriminate experiments in search of coal, in strata of every formation, were therefore desirable and proper in an age when even the name of Geology was unknown; but the continuance of such experiments in districts which are now ascertained to be composed of the non-carboniferous strata of the secondary and tertiary series, can no longer be justified, since the accumulated experience of many years has proved that it is only in the strata of the transition series, which have been designated as the *Carboniferous order*, that productive coal mines on a large scale have ever been discovered." Mr. Conrad upon the forgoing, remarks "we may add, that it is equally fruitless to search for such mines in strata *below* as it is in those above the carboniferous order." Mr. Conrad next starts with some bold propositions that cannot, we think,

be unacceptable to the reader. He assures us not only are all the coal beds or strata of the *Union* of *later* geological date, and *higher* in the scale of formation, than the rocks of the third district, but one fact illustrative of the manner in which the strata originated, is particularly worthy of notice, because it has important bearings on the question regarding the possibility of discovering coal. From the deposition of the first sedimentary rocks, to that of the newest stratum of the district, all the dry land, if there was any, seems to have been confined to the few points presented by naked and primary rocks. Admitting that all coal deposits of any extent and value were derived from luxuriant vegetation on land or in fresh water marshes, we perceive that the conditions necessary for the deposition of extensive coal strata could not have existed in a region where marine formations prevailed, to the exclusion even of small islands, sufficient to nourish a scanty vegetation. This opinion is confirmed by a comparison of the organic remains contained in strata intimately associated with coal, with those of the upper rock of the third district. The former strata are characterised by fossils of the carboniferous order, but the latter by those of SILURIAN or lower transition rocks.—Such are the results of Palæontological distinctions, which may be relied on when other evidence of antiquity in rocks may not easily be found.

In the fourth annual report (Assembly document 50) made to Governor Seward, by William W. Mather (1840,) to whom was assigned the the first geological district of the state we extract the following, inasmuch as what is applicable to the Catskill mountain group or series in Delaware is equally pertinent to this county. Seams and layers, says Mr. Mather of pure anthracite have been observed in some places, and fossil plants similar to those of the coal beds of Carbondale have been found, (referring to Delaware, Greene, and other counties) not only in the shales associated with the anthracite,

but also abundantly in the grits and slaty sandstones of the middle and upper parts of the series. These strata are all, perhaps below the coal bearing rocks of Pennsylvania, and it is not considered probable that coal will be found in useful quantities in them; still some parts of the upper portions bear so much resemblance to the anthracite coal rocks of Pennsylvania, both in mineralogical character and fossil remains, that it is thought POSSIBLE, that coal beds of workable thickness may be discovered.

Mr. Comstock in his outlines of geology remarks that although it is not certain that coal exists at any given place until it is actually found, still there are indications which might perhaps warrant the expense of search, by boring in districts where coal has never been discovered. These indications are various and to point them out requires much experience upon the subject.

Mr. Farey states that in England the coal districts incline to clay, and are generally of an inferior quality. When laid down to pastures small daisies and insignificant weeds are more disposed to prevail than grass. In these districts, water is generally procured at inconsiderable depths, and when the faults are numerous, springs are common, and range in a line with the fault. By the expression *fault* is understood some interruption of the coal vein by another rock intervening or running across the vein and cutting it apart. The face of the country where coal exists is generally undulating, the hills being rounded and not mural or precipitous, and the valleys gently sloping and not deep as they are in granite formations.—Sometimes, however, coal is found in hills more than a thousand feet above the general level of the country. Nearly all coal formations are basin-shaped, or in that form which would arise from a deposition of strata in lakes or ponds of various depths.

Searching for Coal.—According to Mr. Comstock, in most instances, the inclination or bending of coal strata, is

such that the veins rise nearly to the surface, and would be visible, were they not covered by the soil or gravel.—When this is the case, the removal of the soil by a rivulet or the accidental slide of a side hill will uncover the strata, so that their dip and thickness can be determined. This is considered a very fortunate circumstance because the boring for coal, without some such indications that it exists in greater or less quantities, even in coal districts is a very uncertain means of its discovery. Sometimes borings of great depths have been made in the immediate vicinity of large coal fields, without producing any greater conviction of the existence of the mineral than the surface before indicated.

Where a coal stratum comes to the surface, continues Mr. C. it is generally in a decomposed state, and so mixed with the earth as to present no other appearance of coal than a darker color, when compared with the surrounding soil. Hence the real quality of the coal cannot be determined until it is taken from below the influence of the weather, and in general, its quality improves as it sinks deeper into the earth.

The State Geologists pronounce the county barren of minerals and of mineral wealth. Dr. Lewis C. Beck, on the mineralogical and chemical department of the State survey, and whose reports constitute several volumes of the Natural History of New York, notes four mineral springs lying within the county. One in McDonough, known as Spee's Spa. Another two miles south of Norwich village. A third in Pharsalia, and a fourth in the town of Pitcher. To the above may be added a fifth about two miles from Sherburne village. These springs evolve Sulphuretted Hydrogen. "Their origin is ascribed to the action of water upon the sulphurets of calcium, magnesium &c., which not improbably exist at great depths. It may also be stated, that the existence of such a compound in the interior of the earth is in entire accordance with the views

entertained by many philosophers, concerning the cause of volcanic action."

To the foregoing may yet be added a sixth mineral spring, on the Randall farm below Norwich village. The waters of this spring are tinctured strongly with carbureted hydrogen and are sweetish when tasted.

We will pass the mineral springs for the present and recur to them under a future arrangement of the history.

Mr. Conrad discovered *new fossils* in the county worthy of note in this connection.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW FOSSILS.

First Group.

POSIDONIA.

Posidonia lirata.—Shell suborbicular, convex depressed; disk with about 18 concentric angulated carinæ, and with concentric striæ. Length nearly one inch. *Locality*, near Norwich.

Pterinea concentrica.—Shell ovate oblong, compressed, with numerous profound concentric striæ; disk obliquely contracted from beak to base; posterior end dilated, margin rounded. Length one and a half inches. *Locality*, near Norwich. It much resembles a *Modiola* in outline.

Pterinea appressa.—Shell ovate oblong, flattened, disk with distant angular concentric carinæ and striated; umbonial slope very oblique and carinated; dorsal margin rectilinear, parallel with the basal margin. Length, three inches. *Locality*, near Norwich.

Pterinea punctulata.—Shell profoundly elongated; disk with an oblique furrow from beak to base; surface covered with minute elevated punctæ disposed in form of rays on the anterior side; umbonial slope carinated; dorsal margin recurved; posterior extremely truncated; posterior basal margin straight. Length, two and a half inches. *Locality*, same as the preceding.

GONIATITES.

Goniatites punctatus.—Shell compressed, surface covered with minute,

elevated punctæ; septa with a single rounded lobe on the disk, angulated at the periphery. Length, one and three-fourth inches. *Locality*, near Sherburne.

LAKES.—Chenango County abounds in small lakes commonly called ponds. There are from eight to ten existing among the highlands of the county. They are of various dimensions and different depths. Smithville, McDonough and New Berlin contain the most considerable ones in the county. They abound with nearly every variety of fish found in the rivers of the county. Some of the fish were a few years ago transferred or colonized from the rivers and have propagated their species in their new homes until they are as abundant as the natives.

Mr. Noah Mathewson, after whom the large pond in New Berlin is named, many years ago transplanted a pair of pickerel, male and female, in his pond, but they died soon after leaving no progeny. About twelve years since Mr. Abel Comstock, of Norwich, who is an expert angler, tried the same experiment, with the same kind of fish, in the same pond and with complete success. At this day whenever our fishermen capture one of these veterans, they silently thank Mr. Comstock for his provident foresight in providing the means for their pastime. No pickerel inhabited the McDonough pond until some of the Norwich citizens, Mr. Comstock among the number, planted a colony after the manner described. At this day in both of these ponds this kind of fish are predominant. The water in the ponds is clear, cold and healthful to them. From some unknown cause the pickerel in the McDonough pond recently died out to an alarming extent. But the colony is recovering and has nearly regained its usual health and promises rich sport to future anglers.

The largest pond in the county is the main one in Smithville. The Mathewson pond is renowned for its fine scenery (as also the one in McDonough). It is situated about six miles from the county seat, is about one mile in length, about three-fourths of the distance across, in

its widest part, and about forty feet in depth. The original outlet was changed by Mr. Mathewson many years ago. He caused on the lower side of the pond a ditch to be cut (through a stone embankment) about fifteen feet deep and four feet in width. Through this narrow sluice way the waters were conducted for the purpose of propelling mills. This artificial outlet lowered the pond about six feet. This pond is resorted to in summer by the citizens of Norwich village and New Berlin as a place of recreation. The cooling influence of the waters in the hot season and the wild character of the scenery along its banks makes it a most attractive point in summer. It is at this spot picnic parties generally rendezvous in quest of pleasure.

Mr. Mathewson has had the good sense to leave standing many evergreen trees that shade its romantic borders. Of the McDonough lake we are not yet prepared to speak from personal observation. There are ponds in Guilford. One of them, covering an area of about one hundred acres, is chiefly remarkable for its profundity and for its elevated position. The lake is in a basin situated in the highest group of hills between the Chenango and Unadilla rivers.

Near to the Mathewson pond is an ebbing and flowing spring worthy of note. Mr. M. now past eighty, informs the writer that he always obtains by observing the motions of this spring, a true indication of the coming weather. He says soon *before* a storm and before rain, however low the rivulets about his farm may be, this spring, situated in a hill, pours out a rapid stream that continues until the storm rages and then recedes to its usual dimensions.

The remark reminded the writer of the movements of an ebbing and flowing spring visited by him many years ago in the state of Virginia. That spring issued from a ledge of high rocks on a hill side. The aperture in the rock from whence the water poured, was about five feet, measured horizontally, and three feet high. At an interval of

about two minutes the mouth of the rock was filled with an impetuous current so strong as to sweep all before it. The rush of water continued about the fourth of a minute. It then ceased instantly and left no trace that any torrent had flowed from the rock. At the expiration of two minutes the flood re-issued as before.

CLIMATE OF THE COUNTY.

Chenango is situated about two hundred miles north-west from the nearest point of the Atlantic coast. It lies about sixty miles south-east from the southern shore of lake Ontario. Very nearly between the county and the proximate point on the sea shore are the Catskill mountains. Ontario is several hundred feet below the Chenango valley, and no remarkable rise of country intervenes between this section and the lake. Hence the cold air, high winds, clouds and storms that occasionally usurp the otherwise temperate atmosphere of this section, are derived chiefly from the lake country. The heavy snow clouds visit this region coming mostly from east-north-east. The north-west winds chill the sky and exhibit phenomena common to the same currents of air in the more immediate neighborhood of the inland, fresh water seas, situated in high latitudes. The difference is in degree and duration.

The frigid, frosty weather in the county, sets in usually during November. It is less trying to health and is less disagreeable than the chilly, north-west winds in March and April. In all sections of the State when the snows are melting in spring and while the sun is extracting frost from the earth, the atmosphere is far more penetrating and formidable to the constitution, than the clear, cold air of autumn or winter. The air of spring as it is inhaled into the lungs, searches the system internally and renders very warm clothing at this period more indispensable than in mid-winter. In the spring when the weather is most trying out of doors, but little

fire is required to form an agreeable climate within.

The east wind, a terror to the people inhabiting the sea coast, seldom prevails in the county. In the summer of 1849 it was most prevalent and is thought to have caused a failure of the fruit crop of the county in that year. Apples, it is said were blasted or paralyzed on the side exposed to the east. So also with fruit generally along the sea shore. Some well matured fruit was secured in the county; for this there is believed to have been some local causes, such as a forest shutting out the wind, or high hills lying east of the orchards. The summer season in the County is quite uniform and the heat is seldom oppressive. An exception to this occurs when the prevalent wind is from the east. This wind renders the atmosphere too cool for comfort, health or vegetation. The air of the County, like that of elevated countries everywhere, is strong and bracing. It is also free from noxious vapors and is well supplied with Oxygen, which is very favourable to life. As science progresses in its usefulness, the day is not far distant, we may hope, when will be accomplished with facility an analysis of the component fluids and gasses floating in our atmosphere at particular seasons when epidemics prevail: that we may be apprised of the relative existence of such as confer health and longevity as well as those that engender pestilence and abridge human life. In the Summer of 1849 a Chemist in Philadelphia City analyzed the atmosphere for the purpose of detecting the secret agencies employed in generating Asiatic Cholera. The air of the County, like sea air, is invigorating, but unlike salt air, is remarkably elastic. Sound lungs are required to resist its action; but with a respiratory organization unimpaired, long life may be expected; as witness the pioneer population of the County by nature robust, industrious, abstemious and observant of the laws of health.

Cutting away the forest in central and southern New York exerted some influence upon the climate. The ancient in-

habitants sometimes remark there is now but two seasons here; Summer and Winter! It is obvious the winds are less restrained as the woodlands disappear.— But to what extent this undulating region is affected by such a cause has not yet been definitely determined.

Here the human constitution may be said to be prepared for very cold weather by the middle of November; it remains in a manner insensible to an extremely low state of the mercury until the month of March. This remark has application to that class of the inhabitants accustomed to atmospheric influences. The other, and more numerous class, that employ hot air stoves, ever avoiding all contact with the winter weather, are not a criterion upon which to base any judgment in this particular. The hardiest plants and those native to the county, if taken from the earth in autumn and transferred to hot houses would wither if removed before summer to their native beds.

The month of March is much dreaded in all of the middle States. Near the lakes, its approach is terrific. In this county it is comparatively mild and free from the continual winds on the lake shore. It brings in cold, penetrating, disagreeable blasts; but they are transient and speedily pass off. Sleet, hail, rains and thick mists involve our atmosphere more or less during this month and render the roads and the earth disagreeable after some time into April. The most serious objections to this inclement season here are as “dust in the balance” when weighed with the tempestuous and piercing blasts that sweep along the lake countries, leaving malignant fevers in their train.

Autumn along the lakes is milder than in Chenango. Perhaps for this reason; in summer the sun sheds down very warm, unbroken rays upon the smooth surface of the waters and tempers them at great depths. When this warming influence is withdrawn the effect is not perceptible upon the water until a considerable time after it is felt upon the land. As soon as the earth falls to a

temperature below the waters, they return caloric sufficient to preserve an equilibrium in the atmosphere (above and below the surface of the water.)

But this mean temperature is destroyed during the winter when bodies of ice form in the lakes. The ice made in winter on the lakes remains for a long time after the earth is thawed out and keeps the atmosphere disagreeably cold. The ever recurring lake breeze keeps this cold air swiftly circulating along the lake shore until the month of June. The winds on the lakes are usually most violent in spring. All of the disagreeable influences of the lake climate are little known in Chenango.

The country east of the Alleghany mountains and west of the Atlantic coast, including this, has an ununiform atmosphere. Meteorologists profess to account for the discrepancy between the climate west and east of the Alleghanies.

Along the water courses of the county in the fall season, heavy fogs arise in the morning but vanish by nine or ten o'clock. They present a curious spectacle to residents on the highest hills. As they rise from the earth they mark the windings of all the rivers through the high hill gorges. The view is at such times one of surpassing splendor. The fogs seldom visit the hills. The atmosphere of the fogs is heavy and unelastic and oppressive to strangers, but otherwise to residents.

After what has been said, it will readily be understood why the general health of the natives of Chenango suffers severely in the damp climates of the west. The emigrants from this section, (if in health) seldom, we think never, remove to the unbroken, champagne country of the west and along the lakes without undergoing a new acclimation at the expense of good health. They encounter billious fevers, sometimes earlier, sometimes later! But always sooner or later.

Those who emigrate towards the Atlantic, except consumptives, and asthmatics renew their health by the change.

THE COUNTY SEAT.

The civil divisions of the State into Counties, Towns, Cities and Villages were partly completed while New York remained a dependency of Great Britain. The divisions of the State made subsequent to the revolution, is only the English plan carried out *in extenso*. The present system of our local divisions originated among, or rather was adopted by the Saxons, so long ago as the year six hundred.

In modern times the Island of Britain is separated into departments, called counties; the counties are again subdivided into hundreds; the hundreds are cut up into tithings or towns. The seat of a county is more frequently denominated the shire-town. The term shire is Saxon and signifies a division. In the United States the word shire is seldom used, except in its compounds, as follows: "shire-town," "half-shire," &c. In this State the shire-town is the place where courts are held and where county officers convene to transact public business. Some counties, like Oneida, have two or three county seats and the towns where courts are held alternately, are mostly known as half-shires.

In the year 1788 March 7, a law was enacted to establish new towns in the original county of Montgomery. That county at one time included all of this part of the State as well as much of the eastern section of New York.

The town of Whitestown was organized under this law. Whitestown included Chenango and many other counties. In 1791 the town was curtailed by the erection of Herkimer, Tioga and Otsego counties out of the ancient county of Montgomery. These three counties erected during this year comprised what was known many years ago as the "western district of the State." A part of the north boundary of Tioga, (after 1791,) was the present north bounds of Pitcher, New Berlin, Pharsalia, Plymouth and North Norwich. The south line of the towns of Columbus, Sherburne, Smyrna, Otselic and Lincklaen

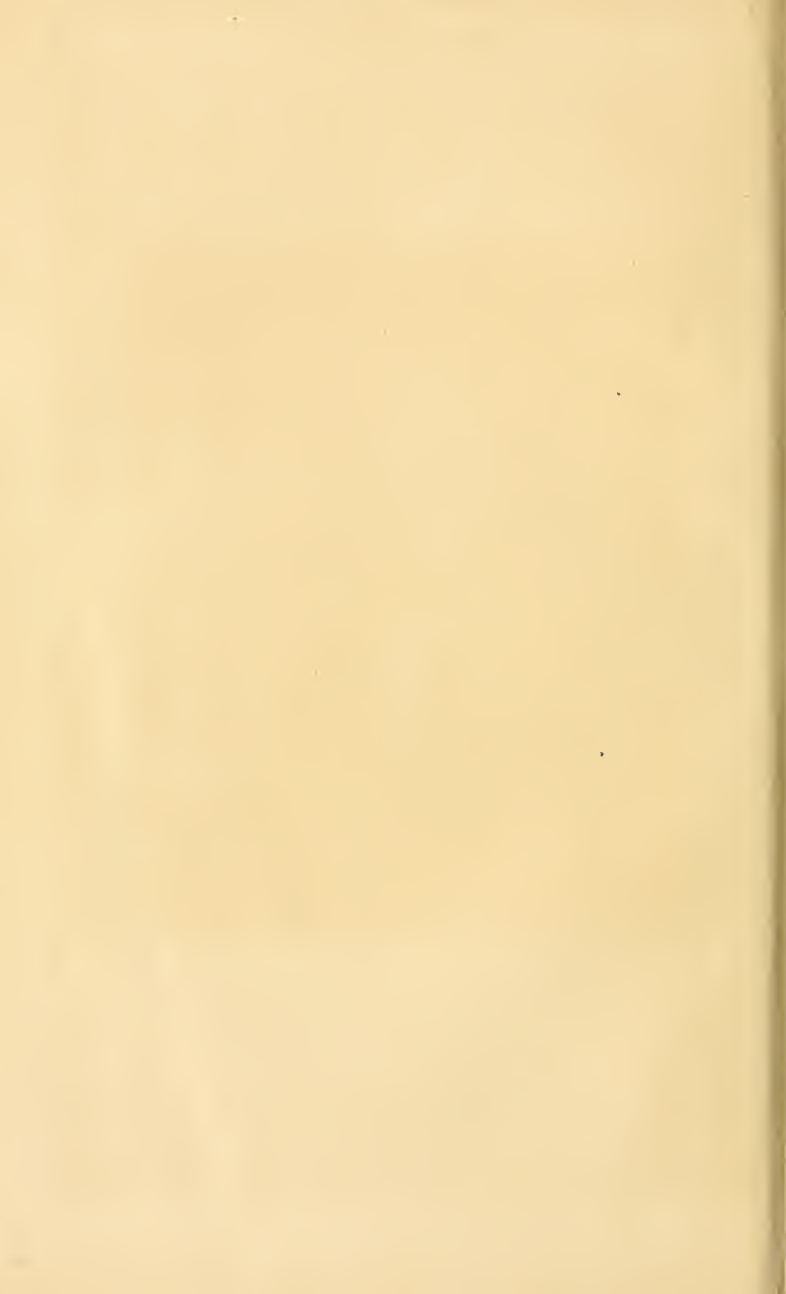
was the southern limits of the original Herkimer county. When these counties were created the towns of the twenty townships were designated by their numbers and the names of the towns, as now known, were not mentioned. Whites-town was the half-shire of Herkimer county for several years. Newtown Point otherwise Elmira was the shire-town of Tioga county. It is believed that the records of Chenango, previous to 1798, are at present in Utica and at Owego the county seat of Tioga.

After the erection of the counties of Otsego, Herkimer and Tioga, the jail at Whitestown was used to confine prisoners as it had been before 1791.

In the year 1798 Chenango was erected from parts of Tioga and Herkimer counties. The county seat was located at the present village of Hamilton, now in Madison county and also at Oxford village. Each of these towns remained half-shires for some years. Up to 1808, the Whitestown jail at Whitesboro, was the jail of this county.

By the terms of the law of 1798 establishing the county, the court of common pleas and general sessions of the Peace was convened at the school house in the town of Hamilton near the dwelling of Mr. Elisha Payne. The second meeting of the court took place at Oxford; and after this the terms were held alternately at each of these places. The court met three times in each year to dispose of the county business. The judges were authorized to open the Court upon Tuesday but not to hold beyond Saturday of the same week. They could adjourn at any time before Saturday.

The legislature left it discretionary with the Supreme Court Judges when they would appoint a circuit for the county. The first circuit was held on the 10th of July 1798. Mr. Justice Kent, afterwards Chancellor, presided. No business was transacted at this sitting of the court as will appear from the subjoined copy of the clerks minutes. They are brief and we copy verbatim. They read:



"At a Circuit Court held at the Academy in the town of Oxford in and for the County of Chenango, on the 10th July 1798 before the Honorable JAMES KENT Esquire, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of judicature of the State of New York.

"Present,"

"Hon. JAMES KENT Esq."

"The Court opened by proclamation."

"The Court adjourned for one hour."

"The Court met pursuant to adjournment."

"Present,"

"Hon. JAMES KENT Esq."

"The Court adjourned *sine die*."

The second term of the Supreme Court was held at Hamilton in July of the next year (1799.) We will again copy the minutes as best explanatory of what transpired at the second holding of the same court. After a caption as in the preceding, the clerk minutes the proceedings thus :

"Present."

"Hon. Jacob Radcliff Esq."

"Court opened by proclamation."

"Recess of the court one hour."

"The court met."

"The Court rose."

A third term of the Court was held in the school-house in Hamilton, on the 30th of June 1800. Morgan Lewis presided. At this term of the Court, two jury causes were disposed of. The first cause tried in the Circuit Court in Chenango was an ejectment. Arthur Breese and Erastus Clark were the opposing counsel. Both were residents of Utica and died in the prime of life.

Benjamin Walker and Solomon Perkins were plaintiffs, against Elijah Bond defendant. The earliest attorneys that appeared before this court were Thomas P. Gold, Platt Brush, Joseph Kirkland and Nathan Williams.

John Lansing Jr. was the presiding Judge at the fourth term of the Court held June 29th 1801.

Judge Kent presided at the fifth term of the Circuit Court appointed for this county in the last week of June 1802. Peter B. Garnsey Esq. appeared for the

first time at this term as counsel in an ejectment suit.

The sixth term of the Court was held at Oxford on the 29th of June 1803. SMITH THOMPSON Esq. presided.

The seventh term of the court was appointed to be held at Oxford, May 29th 1804. AMBROSE SPENCER Esq. presided. Stephen O. Runyan Esq. of Oxford first appeared as counsel at this sitting of the Court.

DANIEL D. THOMPSON Esq. held the eighth Circuit at Hamilton, early in May 1805.

BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON Esq. held the ninth term of the Court at Hamilton in May 1806.

DANIEL D. THOMPSON Esq. held the tenth term of the Court at Oxford, May 1807. At this term the name of Henry Vanderlyn first appears as attorney. The action was for breach of contract.

In 1806 Madison county was set off from Chenango. After this time the Courts were held alternately at North-Norwich and at Oxford. Hill was tried in 1809 at North Norwich, charged with the murder of a child, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

The eleventh term was the first Court held at North-Norwich. Judge JOSEPH C. YATES presided, May 30th 1808. James Birdsall Esq. made his first appearance as counsel, at this court. He was counsel for Peter B. Garnsey, Pl'ff, against Seth Garlick.

The twelfth term of the court was held in the same town, (8th June 1809,) at the Meeting House recently demolished. SMITH THOMPSON presided. At this term of the Court Messrs. Wm. M. Price and James Clapp appeared as counsel in a suit wherein Stephen O. Runyan prosecuted James Birdsall. David Butolph Esq., also first appeared as counsel in a cause at this term of the Court.

We have traced the different terms of the Circuit Court held in Chenango from the time of its first session down to 1809.

We now come to speak of the removal of the County Seat to Norwich vil-

lage and its permanent establishment there.

FIRST COURT HOUSE.

In the year 1807, March 6th, the legislature enacted a law authorizing the Supervisors of the County to select, within one mile of the residence of Stephen Steere Esq., in Norwich village, a permanent site for building a Court House and Jail. The then residence of Mr. Steere was on the corner where the Eagle tavern, owned by Gen. Deforest, was burned down in July 1849. For the purpose of defraying the cost of buildings and the purchase of a location, the legislature empowered the Supervisors to assess and cause to be collected, a tax upon the freeholders of the county, not to exceed in amount the sum of five thousand dollars. One half of the five thousand dollars to be collected the first year and the remaining twenty five hundred the second year. To carry out the details of these provisions of the law, the Supervisors appointed, by virtue of the authority vested in their board, commissioners to perfect contracts with architects and builders. The county was not at any cost for the land upon which the first or old Court House stood. Peter B. Garnsey Esq., tendered to the commissioners, as a free gift, about one and a half acres of land which was accepted and which is the same lot upon which the present Court House is erected. The building itself occupied but a small portion of the area of the land bestowed by Mr. Garnsey. Appurtenant to the Court House is the spacious lawn in front, known as the "West Green." The commissioners accepted a bid or application from Josiah Dickinson and George Saxton conjointly to erect the Court House and prison. Under the labors of the contractors the building was brought to completion so as to be in readiness for courts very early in the spring of 1809.

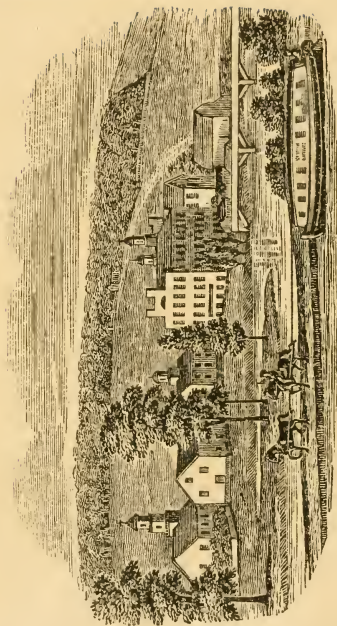
The first Court House was a wooden building, two stories high and substantially erected. The edifice was square and well proportioned. The interior of the house was cramped and deficient in

space. The court room was defective in its dimensions as well as in its architectural symmetry. The room was inadequate to the audiences that congregated, when trials of interest took place. At a primitive day, Courts were as numerous, perhaps more numerous, than now.

The legislature afterwards came to the relief of the contractors, who had lost money in their enterprise, and at the session of 1809 authorized, in addition to the five thousand dollars already assessed upon and collected from the freeholders of the county, a further tax of fifteen hundred dollars to be collected as the first had been and to be paid, when received by the treasurer, as an indemnity to the builders, Messrs. Dickinson and Saxton. This made the price of the building amount to sixty five hundred dollars when brought to completion. At or about the same time that Mr. Garnsey presented the common, known as the west green; Stephen Steere Esq., donated to the public, or rather to the villagers, a lot with dimensions to correspond with the gift of Mr. Garnsey. This lot is situated opposite, on the east, to the Court House and is best known as the "East Green." These two greens, containing between three and four acres, lying in a common, are very ornamental to the village, as well as convenient to citizens.

The beauty of these lawns is marred by the roads running diagonally across them. The grass herbage in spring is seriously cut up by the vehicles that traverse them in all directions. Several unsuccessful efforts have been made to rear up groves upon them, but the young trees have always been destroyed; so that, these fine grounds are as naked now as in 1807, when they were dedicated to the public. Some handsome shades, tastefully arranged on either green, in a few years would give Norwich a romantic and elegant appearance in summer.

In the year 1804, in April, an act passed the legislature authorizing the "council of appointment" to select commission-



Central part of the Village of Oxford.

ers to fix upon a county seat for this county. We cannot ascertain that any action whatever was ever taken under this law and believe none was.

COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE.

In the month of April in the year 1814, the legislature passed a law to erect a new fire-proof clerks office in the county at a cost not to exceed eight hundred dollars. One half of the eight hundred to be collected from the taxable inhabitants the first year; the remainder in the year succeeding. Mr. Garnsey presented to the county the site where the present edifice stands. In harmony with the provisions of the law this building was erected in 1815 and was made fire-proof; that is to say: it has brick walls, sheet iron coverings on the door and windows, and has resting upon the upper ceiling, a composition of ashes and salt. The roof is covered with the shingles ordinarily in use at the time the edifice was constructed. The business room in the office is cramped and inconvenient for the clerk and persons having occasion to examine records. The building was when erected, adequate to its purposes. But since 1815 the county records, have more than doubled, if not quadrupled.— At this day the business room of the office is densely filled with records, documents and miscellaneous papers. The record books are not kept in as perfect state of preservation as they would be, if there was space to open several volumes at the same moment, without piling them upon each other. We understand some documents have been removed for want of room for them, from the office into a private closet in the Court House; thus in a manner putting them beyond public inspection. It is for the interest of every county to look well to the security of its public monuments.

JAIL AND JAIL LIMITS.

The Court of Common Pleas, in the olden time, regulated the jail liberties, subject to a law defining their dimensions.

The first jail limits of Chenango were

established by the Common Pleas in July 1799 at Sherburne old four corners adjacent to the former residence of Josiah Purdy. The reader will remember the jail and the jail liberties were at different places. The jail itself was at Whites-town, now Whitesboro, in the present county of Oneida. The old county of Chenango and the present county used the Whitestown jail, as has before been remarked, until the year 1808.

In the year 1802, the jail liberties of the county were transferred from the "old four corners" to the village of Oxford. At Oxford they were continued until the year 1805, when, in October of this year, they were permanently established at Norwich village; here they have since remained. The early jail liberties were exceedingly restricted and the restriction must have worked grievous hardships upon the unfortunate debtors who chanced to fall under the ban of the law. Three acres of territory was the legal limitation for the boundaries of the limits. The Norwich liberties were surveyed out by Judge CASPAR M. ROUSE. They contained two acres, one quarter of an acre and three rods of land. The legislature, in after years relaxed restraints hitherto imposed; in the year 1819 enlarged the liberties of the jail to the size of the corporation limits of Norwich village and thus they have continued up to the present year (1850.)

The old jail of the county was very insecure. Practicable breaches were often made through its walls.— The jail was constructed within the Court House as also a residence for the turnkey or jailor.

Desperate felons often effected a general jail delivery, without awaiting the vicissitudes of a regular trial agreeably to the tedious forms of criminal procedure. The jail had wooden walls. Fire artfully applied generally secured an escape. Sometimes the flames would rage beyond control; endangering the lives of the incendiaries and jeopardizing the edifice itself. For the safer custody of prisoners, the legislature, by an act pass-

ed in the year 1830, authorized the Supervisors to levy and collect a tax on the county of two thousand dollars, to erect a stone jail, to be located on the lands of the county, within the bounds of Norwich village. The present jail was built by virtue of this law. We believe part of the edifice was not placed on the county land. Charles York, Henry Snow and Thompson Meade were appointed commissioners to plan and contract for and superintend the finishing of the jail. The contract for building was to be closed with that bidder, who would construct the edifice at the lowest charge. The commissioners were allowed two dollars, *per diem*, for superintending the work. The building was put up soon after the passage of the act and has proved adequate to the purposes for which it was designed. Occasional escapes have occurred, but these were more by the fault of locks or weak doors than by any insecurity in the contexture of the building.

NEW COURT HOUSE.

A while previous to the year 1837 the public sentiment of the county began to set strongly in favor of a new Court House. The old building was at Norwich and the stone jail was there. It was therefore very naturally supposed by citizens at the county seat, the new Court House would be built upon the ruins of the old one. How delusive this opinion was, began to be known when the new edifice was finally determined upon by the people at large. An unexpected and very formidable competitor, for the county seat sprang up. This competitor was no other than the citizens of Oxford, who contended strenuously for the removal of the Court House to their village. The inhabitants of that town; noted for their public spirit since the year 1794, when, with slender means, they established and maintained in the wilderness an incorporated academy; those same citizens, together with their descendants, stepped boldly forward and, with a zeal that never flagged, created a strong feeling in the public mind in favor of their claims

to the county seat. They freely offered to erect all the necessary buildings *at their private expense*. The village of Oxford, too, was shown to be only five miles from the central point of the county. Norwich was no nearer to it. In geographical position, neither town had the advantage. The citizens living in Northern Chenango, sympathized with the Norwegians! The inhabitants of Southern Chenango, gave strong support to the Oxonians. One advantage Norwich had; that was a present possession, confirmed by long occupancy! The die for many weeks spun doubtful! At length it turned up for Norwich. The members of the legislature must have felt relief when the controversy was put at rest. Each town was amply represented in the lobbies of the legislature throughout this protracted struggle. As soon as a decision was obtained, the lobby members returned home: those from Norwich, to receive the homage, they well knew, was due from a grateful constituency; and also to partake in the pleasures of the festive board, (to be got in readiness against their arrival).—Great preparations were made to welcome home the Honorables representing Norwich! When their approach to the county seat was heralded: the citizens despatched messengers to stop them on the road lest they should make a sudden advent into the town before arrangements for their reception were completed. The preliminaries of the reception, at last adjusted, the military was next put into marshal array; the citizens generally were set into civic processions. The veteran cavalry of the town received, from the president of the day, (who was likewise commander in chief on the occasion) their last orders, and set off in dense columns to meet the worthy members and escort them home. The veterans at a gallop passed behind the hills and dust clouds and were lost to view. But ere long distant volumes of dust, again obscuring the sun apprized the Norwegians that the cavalry, were making a homeward movement. Soon the horses were in view, with the honorable

members in the rear of the procession.—Festivities were opened by the firing of cannon ; next a dinner was eaten ; next speeches were made ; then toasts were drunk ; and———here we leave the reader to imagine to himself what else occurred on this eventful day.

The act for the erection of a new Court House at Norwich was passed through the legislature and became a law on the 24th of March 1837. The amount appropriated to build it was seven thousand dollars, out of this amount, which was to be collected by tax on the citizens of the county, no more than fourteen hundred dollars was to be levied in any one year. The treasurer of the county on the presentation of his bond to the comptroller officially executed, was authorized by law to draw from the school fund of the state, at six per centum of interest, the entire sum appropriated, if he should deem it expedient to do so. The Treasurers bond was to become due in five years from its date.—The commissioners selected by the legislature to superintend the construction, were William Randall, of Norwich ; William Knowlton, of Smithville ; Erastus Lathrop, of Sherburne ; Subsequently other commissioners were substituted in place of the first ; these were David Griffing and Alfred Purdy, both of Norwich. The law ordered a sale of the old Court House ; and the avails to contribute towards erecting the new one.

The Treasurer's bonds were delivered to the comptroller and the school monies drawn from the treasury and appropriated by the county. The plan of the building was on a costly scale, and, in the sequel, far out-ran the original estimate : Insomuch indeed as to require nine thousand dollars additional, to the seven thousand already appropriated to perfect it.

The edifice itself is elegant ! perhaps the most elegant of any structure of the kind in the State. The outside walls are fabricated from rock of the grey, grindstone grit. The stone is artistically chiseled into large blocks of various dimensions. The four, massive, white,

corinthian pillars, that support the front, projecting over the main entrance, contrast agreeably with the reddish brown or chocolate color of the outer part of the house.

The stone for building the Court House were excavated from a quarry purchased by the county, when the building was being constructed. It lies about four miles south-west of Oxford village, and we believe, is yet owned by the county. Whether it yields any revenue to the county, or whether the supervisors exercise any control over it, we are not informed.

According to our estimates, the county buildings have cost, since 1798, twenty five thousand, three hundred dollars.

In the interior of the present house is a suite of rooms in the basement story ; on the floor above are six rooms, devoted to county purposes ; above these, occupying the entire upper part of the house, is the spacious Court Room.

The room is not constructed in harmony with the principles of acoustics. At least, it is so said by many. The speakers voice, except when the assemblage is dense, reverberates and mocks him with embarrassing exactness.

Members of Congress have found the same difficulty existing in their hall at Washington. The new speaker rehears much he says echoing back upon him in a strain of ludicrous and perplexing mimicry. The speaker of Congress too often hears a whisper in the distant galleries, when he cannot understand the loud tone of some member near by. Perhaps the court-room is not more objectionable on this account than large rooms generally. While upon this subject we cannot forbear to mention a serious defect in the disposition of the jurors seats. They are too low by 16 or 20 inches. Owing to their arrangement, the jury frequently complain to the witness, they do not hear him, when he is audible to the counsel and the Court. A cheap platform would remedy this evil and contribute to the comfort of the jury. By the present arrangement, when the judge charges the jury

we are reminded of a person at the head of a flight of steps addressing another in a cellar. In some of the States jurors have been allowed desks in front of their seats with pen, ink and paper; that privilege has never been accorded them in this State. They are expected to rely on their memory in the longest cause.

In June 1810 SMITH THOMPSON Esq., presided over the first Circuit Court that was held in Norwich village. The year the Court House was completed (1809,) the Circuit Court was held at North Norwich. In June of this last mentioned year the Court of Common Pleas was held in the new court room in Norwich. It was the first court of record that ever assembled at the present county seat.

The most remarkable trial that has taken place in the county occurred in the year 1812. An indictment against Gen. David Thomas, State Treasurer, was called up for trial by the prosecuting attorney of the county. The charge in the bill was an alledged attempt on the part of Gen. Thomas to bribe a member of the State Senate from this county. This effort to corrupt a representative was charged to have transpired in Norwich village; the venue of course came to this county. The charge itself, involving the public and private integrity of a distinguished functionary of government, was sufficient to assemble a large body of citizens from every quarter, at the county seat. Add to this circumstance the mixing up of political considerations with the case, and the reader will at once understand why it was that a more numerous audience, by far, were gathered into Norwich to witness these proceedings, than has ever assembled in the county at any of the Courts convened, before or since this memorable trial.

On the bench sat the distinguished WILLIAM P. VAN NESS as presiding judge of the Oyer & Terminer. Within the bar, before the judge, was seated Thomas Addis Emmet the Attorney-

General of the state; sent hither to conduct the prosecution. Near Mr. Emmet was seated Messrs Foot and Elisha Williams, retained by the prisoner to conduct the defence. Then there were (besides these eminent lawyers.) numerous side counsel. It is unnecessary to observe, this was perhaps the most brilliant array of counsel that has ever appeared in our county. The admirers of Mr. Emmet regarded him, in his life time, as second to none of his countrymen, excepting Edmund Burke. In the zenith of his fame, Emmet was a consummate logician. His rhetoric was illumined by an intellectual armory, containing every species of most highly tempered weapons, consisting of wit, humor, sarcasm and pathos, which he brandished with alarming effect whenever he had occasion to use them. He convinced and fascinated at the same moment. He had just enough of the native Irish accent, indelibly imprinted in his speech to awaken curiosity and fix attention upon whatever he had to say.

The adventures and misfortunes, too, of Mr. Emmet, and the still greater calamity that befel his brother, rendered his very name an object of interest every where. Mr. Williams, in head and heart and legal attainments, was a competitor, worthy of Emmet. Like Mr. Emmet, he was easy, graceful, dignified, natural in private life and wholly unpretending. Neither of these great men aspired to eloquence in ordinary affairs. It was only in moments of excitement, when great interests were at stake, that their dormant powers of oratory were aroused. They might be termed sleepers, that were subject to tremendous awakenings. Envy, at each others great reputation, possessed neither of them. They are said (like all men of genius) to have held each other in warm esteem; bordering on admiration.

The following extract from the New York Sunday Times warrants what we affirm.

"In the case of the People against



Thos. Paine's Memorial

William and Peter Smith printers for conspiring against Abraham Paul another printer," there was for the people Messrs. Maxwell, Caines and Emmet; and for the defendants Wm. M. Price, Slosson, and Elisha Williams.

Of Mr. Williams, Major Noah says:—"In addition to a fine commanding figure, a pleasant face, and a clear toned silver voice, he was distinguished by great forensic abilities and was nearly omnipotent before a jury.—In closing his remarks to the jury in this case he made the following allusion to Mr. Emmet, exhibiting the exalted estimation in which he held him.

"Gentlemen, I cannot conclude without cautioning you against the powerful reasoning and eloquence of my learned friend. I know that he will make a powerful appeal to you against my clients. He will attack your passions and steal your hearts; he will knock at the door of your understanding and gain an entrance. How many men have suffered by his powers, how many his eloquence has sent to your prisons, God only knows. I hope they were guilty. I have met him on trials, and know his talents. He destroys my arguments, he carries away my juries, and he convicts my clients. Let me caution you against the irresistible force of his eloquence."

Such was Thomas Addis Emmet.

Since the death of Mr. Emmet in (1827) his life by Dr. R. R. Madden has appeared; the trial of Gen. Thomas is alluded to as having fully called out the best powers of the attorney general. If we are to credit the Doctor, who is an Irishman, Mr. Foote was associated with Mr. Williams for no creditable purpose. The Doctor thus speaks of Mr. Foote.

"In the year 1812 Mr. Emmet repaired to the county of Chenango, to try an indictment for an attempt to pro-

cure the vote of a member of the Senate by bribery and corruption. He was then attorney general, and the proceeding excited strong party feelings. Elisha Williams and Mr.——Foote, formerly an eminent counsellor and advocate, residing in Albany, were opposed to him. The latter had his task assigned him—he was to brow beat Mr. Emmet. In discharge of this duty, he stated among other things, that Mr. Emmet's promotion to the office of attorney general was the reward of party efforts, and that in conducting this prosecution, he was doing homage for that office.—Mr. Foote gained nothing by his assaults. When Mr. Emmet came to this part of his speech, he stated the accusation as it had been made by his opponent, and replied, "it is false and he knew it. The office which I have the honor to hold, is the reward of useful days and sleepless nights, devoted to the acquisition and exercise of my profession; and of a life of unspotted integrity, claims and qualifications which that gentleman can never put forth for any office humble or exalted."

On the trial many witnesses were examined; numerous documents produced and read in evidence. The jury that adjudged the General are some of them now living. But most of them, like the other actors in the case, the judge, the counsel, the prisoner and prosecutor, have passed away. The jurors were Asa Sheldon, Benjamin Edmonds, Oliver Richmond Jr., Marcena Allen, Nathan Philips, John Simmons, Smith Bradley, Henry Manwarring, David Foulton, Roswell Darrow, Ezekiel Peck and Miles Curtis.

The trial occupied about fifty hours and resulted favourably to the accused. It was a case that created great interest in this county, but not any greater than in almost every section of the state.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

The first Court of common Pleas that was held in Chenango County, was convened at the school house in Hamilton near the residence of Elisha Payne in June 1798.

The Presiding Judges were,
ISAAC FOOTE, JOAB ENOS, JOSHUA LE-
LAND.

The assistant Justices were,
OLIVER NORTON and ELISHA PAYNE.

Before the year 1818, the reader will bear in mind, the court of Common Pleas was composed of Judges and assistant Justices; all appointed by the council of appointment. After 1818 the associate justices office was abolished by law and the common Pleas was constituted of Judges only, and those not exceeding five in number.

The court was opened by proclamation. The first business transacted before the court was the entry of an order that Thomas R. Gold, Joseph Kirkland, Nathan Williams, Stephen O. Runyon, Nathaniel King, Arthur Breese, Peter B. Garnsey, and Medad Curtis be admitted to practice as attorneys and counsellors of the court. Five civil causes were tried at this term of the court.—The court passed rules to regulate the practice of the tribunal and adjourned.

At the second term of the court, there were present besides the Judges already named, John Lincklaen of Cazenovia, and Benjamin Hovey of Oxford both of whom took seats on the bench as associate Judges. This court was convened at Oxford village October 1798. At this term of the court also on the application of Peter B. Garnsey Esq., General Erastus Root was admitted a counsellor of the court. In July 1799 Joel Thompson and Gershom Hyde took their seats on the bench as assistant justices.

In July 1800 Jonathan Forman went upon the bench as associate Judge. Isaac Foote was appointed first or presiding Judge of the court in the same year.—In 1801 Stephen Hoxie was appointed assistant justice. General Obadiah German and Jeremiah whipple took their

seats upon the bench as judges of the court at the July term 1804. At the October term of the court in the same year Caspar M. Rouse and Abner Purdy, the father of the Hon. Smith M. Purdy, and of Alfred Purdy, went upon the bench as assistant justices. Judge Purdy held his appointment until 1812 or eight years, during which time he was unusually punctual in his attendance.

In October 1805 Thomas Lyon Jr. took his seat on the bench as associate Judge. Samuel Payne and Nathaniel Medbury appeared at this term of the court as assistant justices and took seats upon the bench.

In the year 1807 Peter Betts went upon the bench as associate judge.

In January 1808 Joel Thompson Esq. presided as first judge of the court and held this position for several years. The Jannary term of the court was the first term of the common Pleas held at North Norwich. At the June term of the court held in the year 1809 at the present village of Norwich, *for the first time*, Anson Cary and Caspar M. Rouse Esqs. took their seats upon the bench as associate judges. In the year 1810 William McCalpin, Tracy Robinson, Nathaniel Waldron and Elisha Smith went on to the bench as associate judges. In 1811 Ebenezer Wakely was appointed judge.

In the year 1813 John Gray Jr. and Asa Norton took seats upon the bench as associate judges of the court. John S. Flagler and Joel Hatch went on the bench at this same sitting of the court as assistant justices.

In the year 1814 General Obadiah German presided as first judge of the common Pleas, and Obadiah Sands took his place on the bench as associate judge. In October of the same year Samuel Campbell Esq. sat as associate judge and also John S. Flagler. John Twichell and Chester Hammond assistant Justices.

In the year 1815 Nathaniel Waldron took his seat as associate Judge of the court. In the same year at the June term of the court, Caspar M. Rouse,

Isac Sherwood and John Noyes (senior) Esquires took seats upon the bench as associate judges.

In June 1816 Tilly Lynde became judge of the same court. In October of the same year Barnabas Brown also went upon the bench as associate Judge.

In February 1817 Charles Josselyn was appointed associate Judge of the court.

In October 1819 Uri Tracy took his seat as first judge of the county. Mr. Tracy was first judge for several years.

In February 1822, Nathan Taylor went upon the bench as associate judge. In June of the same year Levi Bigelow was elevated to the bench.

In October, 1824, the Hon. John Tracy took his seat upon the bench as first judge of the court.

In the year, 1829, Hezekiah Reade went upon the bench as associate judge.

In the year 1831, Charles York took his seat as judge in the same court,

In the year, 1833, the Hon. Smith M. Purdy presided as first judge of the common Pleas.

In the year 1837 Samuel McKoon and Joshua Lamb took their seats as judges of the court. Levi Bigelow took his seat in this year as first Judge of the court.

In October, 1838, Solomon Ensign took his seat as associate judge.

In October, 1841, Philo Robinson took his seat as associate judge.

In June, 1843, Roswell Judson Esq., went upon the bench as first judge of the court. In the same year Austin Hyde and Adam Storing took their seats upon the bench in the same court.

In June, 1846, Erastus Dickinson

took his seat upon the bench as associate judge. Mr. Dickinson was the last judge appointed under the constitution of 1821. Roswel Judson Esq., was presiding judge of the court until it went out of existence by constitutional enactments. In the present county court, the successor to the court of common Pleas, the Hon. Smith M. Purdy presided as judge having been chosen at the first election of county judges, to sit on the bench for four years. His present term of office expires in about twenty months from May 1850. Harvey Hubbard and Francis E. Dimmick are the associate justices in the county court.

The foregoing catalogue of the judicial officers of the former common Pleas and of the present county court is taken from the county clerks minute books and is thought to include most, if not all of the judges of these courts as well as the assistant justices of the common Pleas. It was impossible to ascertain the dates of appointments; but it is believed that every judge appeared on the bench soon after his commission was received.

General Obadiah German, Joel Thompson, Uri Tracy and John Lincklaen of Cazenovia, once filled a large space in the public eye. Judges Smith and Noyes, too, in their time, were men of rank and consideration among their fellow citizens. Caspar M. Rouse, in his life, held many public stations from Judge to State Senator. Others of the early judges are men of distinction both in the county and state, but as they yet live and move with influence among us, we forbear further remarks.

THE EARLY LAWYERS OF CHENANGO.

We are not advised of the precise date when our early lawyers received their licences to practice as attorneys and counsellors in the Supreme court of the state; nor are we better prepared to inform the reader of the exact month or year when they came to reside in the county. But by reference to the court-roll, of the former court of common Pleas, we are enabled to arrive at an approximation to the time when they came on the Stage. When attorneys were licensed to practice before the court of common Pleas they took the oath of office and inscribed their names on the roll, kept for this purpose. Attorneys residing in the county, generally applied to the court of common Pleas for admission soon after they were licensed to practice in the Supreme court. Sometimes again individuals were licensed by the county judges, to appear in the common Pleas before they had taken their diplomas in the Supreme court. The first name entered on the attorneys roll in the court of common Pleas is Peter B. Garnsey. Mr. Garnsey was admitted to practice so early as June 12, 1798.

Stephen O. Runyan was also admitted on the same day.

Sherman Page was licensed in this court on the fifth day of July in the year 1804.

Henry VanDerlyn was admitted in the same court June tenth 1806. James Birdsall was admitted October fifteenth in the same year.

David Buttolph was licensed June fifteenth in the year 1808.

James Clapp was licensed in this court on the eleventh day of October 1808.—William M. Price was licensed at the same time.

Robert Monell was admitted January eleventh in the year 1809. John Tracy was admitted on the fifteenth day of June in the same year. James W.

Gazlee was also licensed to practice on the sixteenth day of June in this year.

Willard Welton was admitted to practice as an attorney in this court on the ninth of October in the year 1810.

Simon Gager Throop was admitted on the twelfth day of June in the year 1811. Lyman S. Rexford was licensed to practice on the ninth day of October in the same year.

Noah Ely was admitted to practice before the court on the fourteenth day of January 1812.

Samuel Birdsall was made a practitioner of the court on the thirteenth October in the year 1813. Nathan Chamberlin was likewise admitted on the same day and same year.

John C. Clark became an attorney of this court on the thirteenth day of February in the year 1816.

Hiram Carter received his license on the fourteenth of October in the year 1817.

Simeon S. Emmons was admitted October thirteenth in the year 1815.

Lot Clark was admitted to practice in the common Pleas on the eleventh day of June 1816. He also received a license to practice in the Supreme court in the latter part of May, in the same year.

John Birdsall was admitted to this court February ninth in the year 1819.

Samuel Miles Tracy was admitted to practice October thirteenth in the year 1818.

Smith M. Purdy was licensed to practice in this court on the tenth of February 1819. Abial Cook was admitted to practice before the court on the eighth day of January in the same year.

Charles A. Thorp was admitted to practice in the common Pleas on the twelfth day of October 1820.

Addison C. Griswold was admitted to practice in the common Pleas on the eighth of October 1822. John Clapp was admitted on the tenth of October in the same year.

MODERN LAWYERS.

We find no roll among the county archives from the year 1822 up to 1829.—Nor do we find many names in the legal profession wanting in our list by reason of the absence of the roll. Few admissions to the bar of the Common Pleas were made in the course of these six years.

Samuel S. Randall was admitted to practice in the common Pleas on the ninth of February in the year 1831.

Henry Bennett was admitted on the fifteenth of January in the year 1832.

Daniel S. Dickinson was admitted to practice in this court on the ninth of June in the year 1829.

Arba K. Maynard and Samuel McKoon were admitted to practice before the court on the twelfth day of June 1832.

William S. Sayre was admitted on the twelfth of February 1833. Henry R. Mygatt was admitted on the fourteenth of the same month and in the same year. Asher C. Moses was admitted on the same day and year. Benjamin F. Rexford was also admitted June twelfth in the same year.

Joseph Benedict was admitted February eleventh in the year 1834. George M. Smith on the eleventh of June in the same year. Samuel B. Garvin on the fifteenth of October in the same year.

Roswell Judson was admitted on the tenth day of June in the year 1835.—Philander B. Prindle was admitted on the thirteenth day of February in the same year. Robert O. Reynolds and Daniel Gray were admitted on the seventeenth of October in the same year.

John Wait was admitted on the tenth day of February 1836. Mr. Wait we believe was licensed in the Supreme court in the fall of 1835. Isaac Bush was admitted on the seventeenth day of June 1836.

Alonzo Johnson was admitted on the sixteenth day of February 1837. Erasmus Foote on the 9th day of October in

the same year. Cyrus Strong Jr. on the twelfth of October in the same year.

Ira P. Barnes was admitted on the thirteenth of June, and H. O. Southworth on the fifteenth of October in the year 1839.

The foregoing completes the list of attorneys that have practised in the common Pleas court from the year 1793, when the county was organized, down to the year 1840.

Ambrose L. Jordan read law in Norwich village with James Birdsall, but was not admitted to practice in the county; before completing his studies, he removed to Cooperstown where he afterwards established himself in practice.

William M. Price did not remain many years in Chenango. After leaving his partner, Mr. James Clapp, he removed to New York City where his attainments gave him a high position at the bar. He afterwards was elevated to the station of United States District attorney, for the district comprising the city of New York. During the speculation madness that pervaded the United States in 1836, (ever a memorable year!) Mr Price embarked the government funds deposited in his charge in hazardous private adventures and lost them, and, with them, his hitherto unblemished reputation. He sailed clandestinely to Europe, where he remained, until the storm of public and political indignation had somewhat abated. He again returned to the city, that had so often witnessed his forensic triumphs and had always appreciated his fine talents.

Once more he opened an office and appeared before the court with much of his former success: But the rebukes of some old friends and the treachery of others, who took advantage of his embarrassed situation, so wounded his pride, that, in a fit of despondency, he put an end to his existence. The following brief notice of Mr. Price, from the pen of Major M. M. Noah, written

on the occasion of his death, finds an appropriate place in the history:

"The father of Mr. Price was a rich man, and gave him a good education, and he had the best opportunities and facilities of rising in his profession in this city, but he chose the country as the best field for preparation; and after he was admitted to the bar he prepared a wagon and horse, and packed up his law library, and with his partner, Mr. Clapp—both young adventurers went into the interior of this state to seek their fortunes and stopped at various villages which exhibited an opening for young beginners. Journeying this way, early one summer evening they entered the village of Oxford, in Chenango county. The beauty of its position, the neatness of the place, and the substantial air of comfort which presented itself in every direction, determined them to make that town their residence; so bargaining with a milliner to surrender a small but neat building in the heart of the village, they unloaded the wagon of their books, chairs, desks, &c., arranged everything in order in the new office, and nailed up their sign on the window as the shades of night set in. The next morning at daybreak, seated at the door of their new habitation, they saw approaching a citizen, whose appearance denoted that he was a distinguished personage in the village. This gentleman was indeed the largest land-owner in Oxford. He stopped, read the sign on the window, looked at the young lawyers, and said—

"Whence came you, gentlemen—for you were not here when I took my afternoon walk yesterday?"

Being informed by the emigrants of their views and objects he said—

"I like this enterprise, and you shall have my law business."

The first case that Mr. Price had before a justice of the peace he broke down, but rallied, persevered and became a very popular lawyer, and in good business. Happy it would have been for him if he had never left Oxford,—His partner continued there, and we be-

lieve to this day is a man of fortune and eminence in his profession."

We understand the gentleman referred to was Judge Benjamin Hovey at the time a prominent citizen of Oxford.

Daniel S. Dickinson is a native of Goshen, Litchfield county, Connecticut. At the age of six years he removed, with his father in the town of Guilford, in this county. He remained at home with his father upon a farm hard at work most of the time, until he was thirty years of age. What little space he was absent, he engaged in an employment, which most self educated men in the northern states, who pursue a professional career are compelled at some time to embark in, that is School-teaching.

He conducted a school in the west until he had assisted himself to sufficient funds to perfect (by practicing a rigid economy) his legal studies. He read law in the office of Messrs. Clark and Clapp, counsellors, practicing in those days, at the county seat. About the year 1832 he removed to the village of Binghamton, where he very soon attained a high position in his profession.—Like all self formed characters, Mr. Dickinson is distinguished for decision and firmness. His early struggle against adverse circumstances seem to have nerved up his will beyond succumbing to opposition from any quarter.—The first political station he occupied, we think, was a seat in the state Senate. Here he had a memorable intellectual tourney with Col. Samuel Young. Mr. Dickinson's political friends next advanced him to a seat in the United States Senate, a station he yet retains.

John Birdsall immigrated into Chenango from one of the Eastern counties. He was young when he first made his appearance. He studied law with James Birdsall Esq., a relative. Judge Smith M. Purdy, we believe, was pursuing legal studies in the office of Mr. Birdsall at the same time. From Norwich he removed to Greene in this county. From thence he migrated to Lockport in western New York. He was, ere long, elevated to the Supreme Court bench as



A. S. Dickinson

circuit Judge in the eighth district.— From this post he went into the Senate from the same district. He removed from Lockport to Chatauque county, where he married his second wife. Subsequently he emigrated into the state (then Republic) of Texas. On his arrival thither, he was appointed attorney-General and died suddenly while performing the duties of the office. The shining talents of Mr. Birdsall called out admiration from every quarter where he was known. The political history of New York speaks of his intellectual powers in very flattering terms. By nature of a bilious habit, his removal into the west aggravated a constitutional hypochondria, that beset him. Dyspeptic affections finally set in with such unremitting violence, as at times, to disqualify him for either mental or physical exertion. Dewitt Clinton warmly appreciated the abilities of Mr. B. became his early friend and contributed much to assist him into public notice. Chenango has sent forth able men who have won a high fame in other parts of the world. Some of them may have been equal to Mr. Birdsall! none of them were his superiors!

Samuel Bostwick Garvin is the son of an Episcopalian clergyman (now deceased.) The father was a fine linguist and spared no labour to educate his son. The old gentleman's means were too slender to afford his children an outfit in the world; but he gave them a sound education and cultivated their moral natures, which, so far as society is interested, is much better than wealth. Mr. Garvin finished his law clerkship with John Clapp. He remained a while in Norwich, then removed to Sherburne and from thence to Utica; where he enjoys a lucrative practice.

Joseph Benedict, the author of "Benedict's Treatise," removed from Sherburne to Utica with Mr. Garvin and opened an office in company with him. Mr. Benedict has won a reputation for industry and skill in his profession.

SHERIFFS OF CHENANGO COUNTY.

The office of Sheriff is of great antiquity, running back as far as a thousand years in England. The duties of the office have changed at different Epochs; yet its identity in this era of the world, is sufficiently established to mark it as the same that existed even in barbarous times. In England, sheriffs have more extensive powers than in this country.— In the United States the Sheriff is, in some instances, a judicial as well as a ministerial personage. He is the law officer of the courts and as such executes their mandates, enforces process and has the custody of the county prisons.— The High-Sheriff of New York is an official but little inferior to the city Mayor. His responsibilities are great and many dignities attach to his station.— The high-Sheriff of London is of still greater consideration in the public estimation than the Sheriff of New York.— Under the constitution of the state, adopted in the year 1777, the office of Sheriff was filled by a nominee selected by the council of appointment. The only limitation of the appointing power was a prohibition contained in the constitution, disallowing of placing the same person in this office for a longer period than four years successively. The Sheriff was appointed annually; if the officer already occupying the post was continued, a new commission was made out, forwarded to him and he performed anew all of the ceremonies of installation required on his first induction into the office; that is to say; he took the oath of allegiance and the oath of office—two distinct oaths.

It was many years ago, the custom to exact from public officers a general oath trust. The oath was much the same as that required from foreigners now as a condition preliminary to naturalization and citizenship.

of abjuration of allegiance to all powers, Kingdoms and principalities except the

condition preliminary to naturalization and citizenship.

The Sheriff was once an officer held in great respect by the citizens of this county. He arranged all the ceremonies of the court. He formally announced to the judges the particular hour the court room was in order for their reception. He was also equipped with side arms and kept his sword of office unsheathed on the desk in front of his seat. He with his deputies in charge, formally inducted the judges from their lodgings to the court room; the jurors closing the procession. He opened the court by solemn proclamation. In every respect the office of sheriff was one of more import in the public estimation than now.

The first sheriff of the county was URI TRACY of Oxford, who subscribed to his oath of office and entered upon its duties in April 1798; this was about one month after the county was organized. Mr. Tracy fulfilled the lucrative duties of his station until the month of September 1801 when he retired. The office was profitable, because the county was, before 1806, over fifty miles in length and the travel fees of the office were liberal and the ride extensive.

On the 10th of September 1801 NATHANIEL LOCK superceded Mr. Tracy, who was now approaching the fourth year of holding, which was the limitation fixed by the constitution of 1777. Mr. Lock continued to fill the station until the year 1805, when he gave place to ANSON CARY, who occupied the post until the year 1808, May 6, when he in turn gave way to WILLIAM MONROE, who held the office through the year 1809 and was superseded by ISAAC FOOTE in the year 1810. Mr. Foote was again succeeded by Mr. Monroe in the year 1811 and again gave way to Mr. Foote in 1813. SAMUEL CAMPBELL succeeded Mr. Foote in 1815, and he again was succeeded by Mr. Monroe in 1819.

In the year 1821 Mr. Monroe was succeeded by THOMPSON MEADE. Mr. Meade was the last appointee under the

council of appointment. The constitution of 1821 superceded that of 1777; after this the office of sheriff became elective and Mr. Meade was the first sheriff of the county elected by the people. He was elected for three years and retired in 1825 to make room for SAMUEL A. SMITH who held the office until 1829, when AUGUSTUS G. WELCH was elected his successor.

Mr. Welch retired in 1831, and was succeeded by AMOS A. FRANKLIN. In the year 1834 Mr. Franklin's term expired, and JABEZ ROBINSON took the oath of office and continued until 1837; when WILLIAM HATCH entered upon the office. Mr. Hatch retired in 1840 to make room for ENOS S. HALBERT.

The later sheriffs are Joseph P. Chamberlin, William Church and Levi H. Case. By the terms of the constitution of 1821, Sheriffs could hold no other office, and were ineligible to the same office, for three years after the expiration of their term. The sheriff was made ineligible to office to take away all inducement to the prostitution of his official station, to secure a re-election.

The sheriff is amenable to removal by the Governor for mal-versations in office. Governor Seward once exercised this prerogative in one of the eastern counties.

COUNTY CLERKS.

When this county was set apart from Herkimer and Tioga counties, the public Records were kept at Cazenovia. The first clerk of the county was Sidney S. Breese of that place. Mr. Breese was also a lawyer. He held the post under an appointment from the council of appointment until September 1801, when Uri Tracy was nominated as his successor. Mr. Tracy continued to perform the duties of the office for some years. In July 1815, he gave way to the appointment of David G. Bright, who was clerk of the county until August 1819; when he was succeeded by Perez Randall who in turn was superseded by Nathan Chamberlin in June 1820.

Mr. Chamberlin continued to perform the duties of the office for a few months, when he resigned, and the council of appointment put in his place Doct. William Mason of Preston, a member of Assembly belonging to the political party opposed to the council that appointed him. The Doctor accepted the appointment and made Perez Randall his deputy to perform all the duties and receive the emoluments of the office. Very Soon after the appointment was made, a council, of friendly politics, came in and Doct. Mason resigned in favor of Mr. Randall who was formally appointed clerk on the 23 Feb. 1821. Mr. Randall continued clerk, by appointment until the constitution of 1821 went into operation. He was then re-elected by the people and again elected at the expiration of every third year until the fall of 1831 when he was defeated by a political opponent in the person of Jarvis K. Pike, now a resident of the state of Wisconsin.

Mr. Randall was once more the successful candidate for the office in the fall of 1834. He was again re-elected in the year 1837, and died universally respected and universally mourned, very early in the spring of 1839, while an incumbent of the office. To serve out the remainder of the term made vacant, by the decease of Mr. Randall; the Governor appointed Cyrus Wheeler who was inducted into office on the first of April, 1839.

Alfred Purdy was elected in the place of Mr. Wheeler in 1839, and after serving a three years term, was succeeded by John Latham, who was succeeded by Burr B. Andrews; who gave place to Nelson Pellett elected at the presidential election in 1848, and who is the present incumbent.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

The office of public prosecutor for counties is derived from English custom, and has existed in this state since its earliest organization. The districts in which these officers prosecute criminals, in behalf of the people, have varied in extent at different periods. In primitive times, or before the constitution of 1821, one officer was papointed for many counties.

Thomas Gold of Oneida was the first district attorney appointed for this county; his circuit extended from Utica to Binghamton, perhaps farther. He was styled "District Attorney General."—Nathan Williams succeeded Mr. Gold in 1802. He was also officially known by the appellation of *District Attorney General*. Nicholas King was district attorney after Mr. Williams in 1811.—Daniel Kellogg was district attorney for Chenango in the year 1815. Joseph L. Richardson was district attorney in 1816 and continued for some years to fill the office. S. Gagers Throop was district attorney in 1821 and was succeeded in, 1822, by Lot Clark. Mr. Clark gave way, in October, 1823, to John C. Clark, who held the office until 1827. Robert Monell was district attorney in 1828. Lot Clark next filled the post and was succeeded by John Clapp in 1829 or 1830. Mr. Clapp continued in the office until his removal to Binghamton in the year 1841.

The successor of Mr. Clapp was Geo. M. Smith who occupied it until the appointment of Robert O. Reynolds. After Mr. Reynold's term expired Mr. Smith was re-appointed and continued until the office until the former constitution expired.

Before 1821 the office was filled by

the council of appointment. After the constitution of 1821, the judges of the Common Pleas appointed district attorneys for the county.

By the constitution of 1846, the office was made elective. At the first judicial election, under the latter constitution, James M. Banks of Bainbridge was the successful candidate. He is the present incumbent.

GRAND JURORS.

The grand inquest of the county convened at Oxford, for the first time, at the sitting of the circuit court in that village on the tenth of July 1798.

The jurors names were Ephraim Fitch, Samuel Kimball, Wareham French, Jonathan Bush, Samuel Carewe, Samuel Curtis, Frederick Bacon, William McCalpin, James Bennett, David White, John McNeal, Francis Brissee, Elihu Murray, William Bennett, Luther Talmadge, Ephraim Fisk, Thomas Havens, Benjamin Ketcham, Richard Wame, Dedimus Kenny Jr.

Thompson Meade was fined three dollars at this session of the court for non-attendance as constable.

CRIMINAL CALENDAR.

For some years the criminal calendar of the county was small and the crimes committed were of a trifling nature.—Occasionally, serious offences were perpetrated and the punishment following conviction, was incommensurately light. One criminal convicted of an attempted ravishment was sentenced to *four months* confinement in the county jail and at the expiration of the sentence was ordered to find two sureties, in one hundred dollars each to keep the peace with all citizens, but toward the complainant in particular.

The person convicted of petit theft was sentenced to pay twenty shillings fine. Another culprit was mulcted by the court to the amount of three dollars, for assault and battery; the fine to help defray the expenses of the prosecution. There may have been two causes for these unusually light inflictions by the courts. The one, the rare occurrence of

crime; the other, the want of a convenient jail. Light fines could be paid, while heavy ones, extending beyond the means of the culprit, involved the county in expense to defray long and tedious journeys to the Whitestown prison.

There have been seven or eight trials for murder in the county, and several capital convictions. But one execution, however, has taken place since the county was organized. In 1809 a conviction for murder occurred at a circuit court held in the old meeting house at North Norwich. The sentence being afterwards disaffirmed by the Governor, was not carried into effect.

The criminal calendar of the county was increased after the revulsion in 1837. After 1829, there seems to have been considerable increase in crime, over all the former years. This is in part explained by the influx of population.

CIVIL CALENDAR.

Many years ago, the Chenango lawyer enjoyed a professional harvest, immensely more lucrative and incomparably more profitable, than any or all the emoluments arising out of legal practices at the present time. When the county was emerging from infancy into adolescence, numerous disputes, growing out of defective land-titles, came to be adjusted by the legal tribunals. These often involved intricate questions, calling for critical legal disquisitions upon the laws regulating tenures.

This species of litigation invited into the county, counsel eminent for talents, and who, as citizens, were worthy the high position they occupied in social life. Indeed, in the year 1820 the county bar had a widely extended reputation abroad, and compared, for strong ability, most favorably with the legal profession in all sections of the state. In time the disquieted titles were put at rest so much that the famous ejectment became very rare in the courts. Nearly akin to the ejectment were trespass suits brought by and against timber merchants. This class of traders patronized the courts

and lawyers most liberally for a series of years.

The lumber traffic was, at one time, a staple branch of commerce in Chenango. Many of the "gorgeous palaces, the cloud-capped towers and solemn temples," at present ornamenting the cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia, came chiefly from the hill-sides of this county! The Susquehanna has, in days past, floated away, on its broad bosom, most of our best forests. This extensive trade at length declined, and with it decayed the litigation which it created.

Awhile ago laws imprisoning for debt were in force. Every creditor had some expectations of payment, whatever the circumstances of the debtor. If he could not get property, he could get the body, and this was a point gained.—Then, on the other hand, insolvent debtors, anxious to regain their liberty, had frequent recourse to the state bankrupt laws, which gave rise to much severely contested litigation. In time the imprisonment laws were abolished and with them a cumbrous mass of strife. But yet a strife that paid lawyers.

Many years past, the citizens of Chenango were money-borrowers; now they have money to loan. When the county was new the inhabitants were deeply indebted on their wild land purchases. Farms had to be reclaimed before they yielded any profit from cultivation; it was consequently long, very long, ere the indebtedness of the county was discharged. Before this was done, frequent suits were brought and many foreclosures made, to collect these debts. This species of legal practice has now, fortunately for the citizens, passed away.—The foregoing are some of the causes of the great accumulation formerly, and of the great decline latterly, or during the past twenty-five years, in law business.

The most paying business ever transacted in the county was shared among a few practitioners. Once, education was less diffused than at present. The lawyer drafted the most ordinary papers, such as deeds, leases, bonds, contracts, etc., etc., and for every

service he was far better remunerated than the modern practitioner. Besides the general decline in law business in later times, from intrinsic causes, other agencies have been employed to depress the profession.

In the year 1840, the legislature, under a recommendation from the Governor, struck out, at a heat, over fifty per centum from the fees of lawyers. Since then the legislature has made still further reductions. But the profession, far from being prostrated by these frequent decapitations, seems, Hydra-like, to flourish and prosper, *numerically speaking*, in an inverse ratio, corresponding exactly with the decrease of its pay and emoluments. When law fees were high, and legal gentlemen often accumulated little fortunes, after twenty or thirty years' labor, there were not many disciples of the law. But now, when no candidate, except by some unexpected stroke of good fortune, can in the common course of things reasonably expect to realize more than a scanty livelihood by the intensest application, we find more attorneys in this state than ever before. The age is eminently monetary! as most persons if not all, begin life to acquire money, it is not easy to explain why so many leave *worldly* pursuits, to stray into the dried up and exhausted fields of the profession.

The lawyer, many years ago, was at trifling out lay for a law library. In modern days it requires many hundred dollars to furnish such books as are indispensable to every practitioner. The law was once an interesting study; but for some years past the lawyer's life is spent, not in learning the source of legal ethics, or the discovery of right, so much as in comprehending the multiplied formalities of practice, the dextrous manipulations and subtle arts of litigation. The New York bar could once appear before the courts of other states, and the United States, with great credit and marked advantage. But now, attorneys and judges are too much occupied in delving out interpretations of the numerous statutes, every year

showered down upon the people by the legislature, to devote any time to reading Kent, Blackstone, Story, Marshall, or indeed any elementary writer.

The last effort of the legislature to clarify the muddy waters of legal practice seems to have troubled them the more. It is always a sad and dangerous thing, to see, as we do now, the gravest counsellors and best judges, thrown into the position of beginners, anxiously studious to find what is law upon the plainest proposition in practice. The anxieties of judges on the bench, to know what the legislature has said or meant to say, sometimes reminds one of the distress of Diogenes, the Cynic, who was so incensed at the deceit of his fellow citizens, that he gravely went into the public street at mid-day, with a lighted lantern, to find, as he said, an honest man.

Property and liberty are ever safest when the laws are uniform and well understood. The state required great, radical and fundamental *reforms* in its laws. But the legislature has not so much reformed *revolutionized* them. Nor is it lawyers alone that suffer by all this confusion; but it is that class of the people who are so unfortunate as to be suitors before the courts.

Chancellor Kent, in his life, deprecated the slight innovations the Revised Statutes had made upon the fixed doctrines of the Common Law. If alive now, how would his soul rise in arms against the tornado that has broken up the dikes and highways and beacon lights of our jurisprudence! Law is made necessary by the wants and the vices of society.—By restraining the violent, and by defending the weak, it operates as the great balance wheel that equalizes all social rights.

COUNTY LOANS.

In the year 1792 the state, for the first time, was in a condition to loan to the various counties, lying within its borders, certain public monies that had accumulated in the treasury department. On the 14th of March in this year, the legislature made a law, which authorized the Judges of the court of Common Pleas, or one or more of the Judges, together with the supervisors, or a majority of them, in each county, to assemble at the county seat of the respective counties, and while so met together, to elect two freeholders of the county to be loan officers, and as such to let out to individuals upon bonds and mortgages, drawing six per centum of interest annually, such sums as should, under the loan law, be allotted to the county.

The loan officers, so chosen, were declared to be a body politic and corporate, with all the powers of corporate bodies generally. The sum, which the state advertised to be loaned, was two hundred thousand pounds, or something under one million of dollars. The legislature apportioned to the counties of Tioga and Herkimer, which then included Chenango, five thousand four hundred pounds, or about twenty-five thousand dollars. Tioga drew two thousand six hundred pounds, and Herkimer drew two thousand eight hundred pounds.

The interest on the loan became payable yearly; and the principal at any time the legislature should provide after the first of May, 1803. The loan commissioners were authorized to seize for the state all lands mortgaged, if the principal or interest was unpaid after it became due. No formalities were required to obtain for the state a title to the land pledged, except a seizure.

By another provision of law, the loan officer, after taking possession, was authorized to sell the estate at auction, for the public benefit. This county enjoyed some part of this loan, as appears from an extract from the law of 1793, organizing Chenango out of Herkimer and Tioga counties. The provision reads: "That all losses which may arise from deficiencies on loans made by the loan officers, on lands situated in that part of Chenango taken from Herkimer county, shall be borne by inhabitants residing in such part; and such deficiency as shall arise from lands mortgaged to the loan officers of the county of Tioga, and situated in that part of the county of Chenango, taken from the county of Tioga, shall be borne by the inhabitants residing in such parts."

Previous to the above law of 1792, the state issued *bills of credit*, by virtue of an act of the legislature, passed April 18, 1786, to the amount of two hundred thousand pounds, or over eight hundred thousand dollars, to relieve the distress of the people, occasioned by the late calamitous war for independence. These bills were loaned to the different counties, in proportion to the quota of inhabitants. The loan officers secured the state by taking bonds and mortgages, as now. These bills were receivable for state dues, and whenever the State Treasurer had a surplus of 150,000 pounds of gold or silver in the treasury, he was to redeem such as were outstanding. The bills issued under this act were a lawful tender for debts among citizens; in other words, they were issued to supply the want of a better circulating medium. On the adoption of

the Constitution of the United States, this kind of currency, issued by the state government, was wholly interdicted.—In 1795 the Legislature extended the time for payment of mortgages executed under this law, to the year 1805. Another act passed in March, 1806, extended the time to 1810. By another act passed February 26, 1808, the time for payment of principal, due for loans under the laws of 1792 and 1786, was extended to the year 1815. In all of these cases, the borrowers were at liberty to pay their mortgages at any moment.

On the 11th of April, 1808, the legislature authorized a new loan from the state to the freeholders of some of the counties, amounting to four hundred thousand dollars, at six per centum of interest. In 1815 the loan of 1792 was again extended. In 1820 the old loan officers in the counties were changed.

The earliest loan books we have been able to find in the county, were opened by Gen. Obediah German and Nathaniel Locke, as Loan Commissioners, in the year 1808. Applications for the public monies were most numerous, and beyond the sums to be let. Applicants received a *pro rata*, or per centum according to the amount for which they applied.

The lettings by the state, from time to time, continued until the United States Deposit Fund was distributed in loans, throughout the counties. The debt due the state was then, as we are advised, merged, or rather consolidated into the United States loan. The present county debt, for the public monies, ranges between seventy and eighty thousand dollars. We understand the

last mortgage, outstanding to secure monies under the "old loan," was taken up very recently.

POPULATION OF CHENANGO.

The first settlers of the county, were chiefly from the New England states. Many were natives of Massachusetts, but the majority of the early pioneers were from the state of Connecticut.—Stonington, in the latter state, contributed largely towards the peopling of this county. One of the towns, west of the county seat, once bore the name of Stonington, and afterward took another cognomen.

Beside the early eastern settlers in the county, there was a respectable class of Frenchmen, who, escaping the wild fury of a bloody revolution at home, fled across the Atlantic, and sought refuge in these, then, western wilds. The "Vermont sufferers," composed another portion of the early population of Chenango. The states, from whence the first inhabitants migrated, continued for many years to furnish the chief increase of population hither. While the New England colonies flourished, the French colony went gradually into decline, and at last fell to decay.

In modern times, a new people have appeared among us, and fixed themselves in permanent abodes. These are an enterprising and frugal class of Catholic Irish. They are farmers, located on the hills in the town of Smithville, and will soon become, (if not already so,) men of moderate wealth. Of this settlement, we shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

COUNTY CENSUS IN 1800.

We propose at this stage of the history, to open up a comparative view, or statement of the population at different periods from the year 1800, (the first year an enumeration of the inhabitants of the county was made, after it was established,) down to the year 1845.

In the year 1800 the county contained a free white *male* population, under ten years of age, consisting of 2,992 per-

sons. It contained of males, between the ages of ten and sixteen years, 1314. Of males between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six, 1436. Of males between the ages of twenty-six, and under forty-five, 1942. Of males of the age of forty-five and upwards, 679.

The free white *female* population of the county, consisted, at this time, of 2891 children under the age of ten years. Over the age of ten, and under sixteen years, 1038. Of the age of sixteen, and under twenty-six years, 1249. Of the age of twenty-six, and under forty-five years, 1523. Of the age of forty-five years and upwards, 134. All other free persons, except Indians not taxed, amounted to 40. There were 16 slaves in the county in this year; making an aggregate of population, numbering 15,666 souls. This county then included the present county of Madison.

CENSUS OF 1810.

The county in the year 1806, was abridged, by taking off the present Madison county. As now appointed, the county in 1810 contained of free white males under the age of ten years, 4,254, of ten years and under sixteen, 1889.—Of sixteen years, and under twenty six 1895. Of twenty six and under forty five years 2257. Of forty five years and upwards 1113.

The free white *female* population, under ten years, consisted in 1810 of 3,839 souls. Of ten years and under sixteen 1536 persons. Of sixteen years and under twenty six 1914. Of twenty six and under forty five 2016. Of forty five years and upwards 900. The county contained of all other free persons, except indians not taxed, 76. The number of slaves in the county, in 1810, was 13.

The aggregate of population in this year, including every class above enumerated, was 21,704. The population of Madison in this year, was 25,144.—The population of the two counties in 1810 was 46,848. This shows an aggregate increase in ten years of 31,182. But after the census of 1800, and before

1810, Sangersfield had been set off from Chenango to Oneida. This town included, shows an increase of the then county population amounting to 31,700.

CENSUS OF 1820.

The census of the county taken in this year, shows the following result, of males under ten years, 5346. Of ten and under sixteen 2559. Between sixteen and eighteen, 759. Of sixteen and under twenty six, 2931. Of twenty six and under forty five, 3144. Of forty five and upwards, 1778. The free white female population in this year under ten years was, 5325. Of ten years and under sixteen, 2409. Of persons of sixteen and under twenty six, 3024. Of twenty six and under forty five, 2,950. Of forty five and upwards, 1553. The slave population of both sexes amounted to only seven persons. The colored population, male and female, was 189. This census shows an aggregate of 31,215 persons, residents of the county in this year. It also shows an increase of population, during ten years or from 1810, amounting to 9511.

CENSUS OF 1830.

The particulars of the census taken in this year are so numerous and are extended into such tedious details that we shall not weary the reader with a minute circumstantial account of them.—Norwich contained in 1830, a free colored population amounting to nearly 100 souls. No other town had so numerous a population of this class. Oxford contained the next most numerous colored population. Sherburne the next. Plymouth was not represented by any of the dark people. Pharsalia contained but one black inhabitant. There were four slaves set down, in the enumeration, as belonging to Sherburne.

No other town in the county contained any persons held in servitude. One male person of one hundred years and upwards was then living in Bainbridge and one female of the age of one hundred years, resided in Norwich.

There were but twelve persons in the

county, between the ages of ninety and one hundred years. The early colored inhabitants came into the county chiefly with the Eastern pioneers, who were in many instances owners of this part of the population. Three of the slaves owned in Sherburne in 1830 had attained the age of one hundred years. This is remarkable when taken in connection with the sparse number of colored people in the county. Out of many thousand white people, but two had attained to such old age.

The aggregate population in the county of all classes and casts, in 1830 was 37,404 : showing an increase over 1820 of 6189 persons.

CENSUS OF 1840.

In the year 1840 Chenango had attained its maximum of population. The county then contained 40,785 inhabitants : Being an increase over the year 1830 of 3381 persons.

In this year there was no white persons resident in the county, that had attained the age of one hundred years.—Only two white persons were as old as ninety years and upwards. One colored woman, was found in Sherburne, that had lived to the age of one hundred.—As a country becomes settled the inhabitants seem to decline ; possibly verifying language of the poet.

“Where wealth accumulates, men decay.”

The following remarks of Goldsmith, are perhaps, to a certain extent true tho’ they are to be taken with many qualifications.

He says :—

“Poverty and want are the parents of vigilance and economy ; vigilance and economy, of riches and honor ; riches and honor, of pride and luxury ; pride and luxury, of negligence and idleness ; and negligence and idleness again produce indigence and obscurity. Such are the revolution of life !”

We have sometimes heard it observed, that colored people are constitutionally adapted to very warm countries, that

in cold climates they are taken off by disease in their prime.

The statistics of this county show a different result from that arrived at by this kind of reasoning. Longevity among the colored race in Chenango is more common in proportion to numbers, than among the whites. It may be that the African in his native country, lives to a yet greater age: greater far than the Anglo-American in his, of this we are uninformed.

In the county census tables of 1840, we find an account of the number of persons employed in mining; in agriculture; in commerce; in manufactures; and trade; in navigation on the ocean; in navigation on canals and rivers; and in the learned professions. There is also a list of pensioners, for service performed during the revolutionary war.

In this year (1840) there were as many as 20,545 individuals or more than one half of the population, engaged in tilling the soil; in the pursuits of commerce 458 persons were engaged; 3,461 persons were engaged in manufactures and trade; one individual in navigating the ocean; 61 in navigating canals and rivers; in the learned professions 489 of the population were employed. The number of revolutionary pensioners in 1840 was 103.

THE SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY

In this year (1840) there were eight academies and grammar schools of primary and common schools 343; as follows: In Columbus 15; in Smyrna 15; in Lincklean 9; in Guilford 21; in Otselic 14; in Coventry 15; in Bainbridge 24; in Sherburne 18; in New Berlin 23; in Greene 30; in German 10; in McDonough 13; in Smithville 19; in Pitcher 16; in Pharsalia 12; in Norwich 34; (Norwich then included North Norwich,) in Plymouth, 91; in Preston 12; in Oxford 25.

The number of scholars that attended these schools was 12,81. Bainbridge, Greene and Norwich each had over 1,000 youths (both sexes included) receiving instruction. Preston had

the lowest number of scholars; this town numbered but 840 pupils. The number of scholars that were educated at public charge in this year were twenty only and these were living in Preston. Of the number of white persons over 20 years of age in the county that could *not read or write*; none were found in Lincklean; Oxford; Greene; German; McDonough; Smithville; Pitcher; Pharsalia; Norwich or Plymouth.

Of this unlettered class, Columbus contained 3; Smyrna 24; Guilford 4; Otselic 10; Coventry 2; Bainbridge 2; Sherburne 13; New Berlin 9; Preston 10. The whole number in the county was 77

In the academies and grammar schools; Sherburne had 168 students. Greene 68; Pitcher 26; Norwich 82. Oxford 379. The other towns stand blank in the census returns.

Some of the readers of the history may desire to see a comparative table showing the increase of population in the county from the year 1800 to the year 1840 and after that the slight decrease within the *original limits* of the county as it was organized in 1800.

To give this table we must include Madison county and add her population to ours.

The present counties of Madison and Chenango, (both formerly in the county of Chenango) contained in 1800;

5,666 inhabitants of all ages sexes conditions and complexions, except Indians. In 1810 the two counties contained 46,848 inhabitants; showing an increase in ten years of 31,182. In 1820 the two counties contained 63,423 inhabitants, which was an increase over 1810 of 16,575. In 1830 the population of the two counties was 76,441 showing an increase over 1820 of 13,018. In the year 1840 the population of these two counties had nearly attained its maximum; it had reached as high as 80,793, being a gain of 4,352 over the year 1830. In the year 1845 the two counties contained a population of 80,887 showing only 94 increase over the year 1840. In 1810 Madison

county had 3,410 more population than Chenango. In 1845 Chenango numbered 1,087 less than Madison. But in 1840 Chenango contained 773 more inhabitants than Madison. Chenango had less people in 1845 than in 1840.

There are very satisfactory reasons to be advanced for the decline of our rural population. When the county was new and while the farmers were in poor circumstances, individuals occupied and cultivated small farms. At length the Chenango canal opened up for this region a ready, paying market for butter and cheese and wool and indeed for whatsoever grains the agriculturalist produced. This placed wealth in hands it had never reached before. In a short space the larger farmers realizing handsome gains for the products of their dairies, began to purchase up the farms of the small proprietors to enlarge their own fields. The latter class emigrated to the West, where land is cheap, leaving one man to occupy in the county a territory several had always cultivated previously. Indeed, owing to this cause, the next census may show a still farther decrease in population; but yet a surprising increase in agricultural wealth.

In the year 1840, more than half the people of Chenango were farmers. And the decrease of this class of inhabitants must be very great, to cause the population of the county to diminish (as by the census it appears to) while the growth of all the villages was never so rapid or so prosperous as during the past six years. But for the rise and progress of the villages, in every quarter of the county, the decrease of our rural population would in time be seriously felt.

CENSUS OF 1845.

We will next proceed to an examination of the census returns of 1845.—Heretofore we have had recourse to statistics published in the United States census returns. In 1845 a census was taken under the direction of the State authorities and at the State expense.—This census, including an enumeration of the inhabitants; an account of the agriculture and mechanic arts, exercised in the county, is made out minutely, elaborately and is very valuable. Naked statistics often speak with more enthusiasm and true eloquence than the productions of the ablest philosophers, orators or authors. Like history, they are “philosophy teaching by example.”

The modern census is far more extensive and scrutinizing than the early accounts which we have of the progress of population and industry in the U. States. The census of 1845 contains not only a count of the population; but there is appended a list of pupils in the schools; the quantity of cloth of every description fabricated in families for domestic consumption; the quantity of *improved* land in each town; the different kind of crops grown and the quantity; the number of neat cattle; horses; sheep; swine; also the extent of horticultural pursuit. There is likewise an account of the various kinds of machinery; such as fulling mills, carding machines, cotton factories, woolen factories, rope factories, etc. There is also an enumeration of Iron works, trip hammers, distilleries, asheries, paper mills, tanneries and breweries. There is a detailed account of the various religious denomina-

tions and incorporated institutions of learning. Another of Hotels, Stores, trades and professions.

POPULATION OF THE TOWNS IN 1845.

Bainbridge contained of inhabitants	3081
Coventry.....	1795
Columbus.....	1461
German.....	947
Guilford.....	2787
Greene.....	3965
Lincklean.....	1172
McDonough.....	1514
Norwich and N. Norwich.....	4269
New-Berlin.....	2704
Oxford.....	3059
Otselic.....	1483
Pharsalia.....	1209
Pitcher.....	1501
Preston.....	1059
Plymouth.....	1476
Smyrna.....	1944
Sherburne.....	2680
Smithville.....	1794

Giving a total in the county of 39,900 inhabitants.

There were in this year 425 children in the county attending *select*, unincorporated schools. There were also 416 youths of both sexes attending incorporated academies within the county. Of incorporated academies in 1845, there were four. One in each of the towns of Norwich, New-Berlin, Sherburne and Oxford. These institutions were established at an aggregate outlay of eleven thousand seven hundred and thirty nine dollars for the buildings alone. Other improvements about them cost five thousand six hundred and twenty six dollars more; and the sites for the buildings were purchased at a further cost of thirty seven hundred and fifty dollars.

IMPROVED LAND IN THE COUNTY.

In the year 1800 Chenango was yet a wilderness, except occasional small incursions made into the forest by the woodsman's axe. But it is far otherwise now, as appears by the subjoined table (of cleared or improved land in each town) made in the year 1845.

Bainbridge had, of improved acres	22,865	3-16
Coventry.....	17,133	
Columbus.....	15,299	
German.....	8,933	
Guilford.....	23,658	1-4
Greene.....	24,802	3-4
Lincklean.....	8,470	3-1
McDonough.....	11,351	
Norwich.....	26,008	
New-Berlin.....	21,298	
Oxford.....	19,169	
Otselic.....	8,163	
Pharsalia.....	10,566	
Pitcher.....	10,688	3-4
Preston.....	14,207	1-4
Plymouth.....	12,923	
Smyrna.....	14,931	1-4
Sherburne.....	20,970	1-2
Smithville.....	18,414	

In the above list the towns of North Norwich is included in Norwich. According to this table the county, at that day (1845), contained 309,851 11-16 acres of improved soil. We have before put down the county as including an area of about 514,800 acres. Omitting the fraction of an acre set down in the above footing, we find the county contained about 204,949 acres of wood land in that year. Much of the cleared land in the county has been devoted exclusively to grazing and has not yet been subjected to the plough. In 1835 there were 248,566 acres of improved land in the county.

BUTTER MANUFACTURED IN 1844.

We now propose to give in round numbers the quantity of butter made by the citizens in this year. In the 19 towns, North Norwich then being a part of Norwich, the dairy of the county produced no less than 2,816,291 pounds of butter, which is sold at 12 cents the pound, yielded to the citizens no less than, three hundred thirty seven thousand nine hundred fifty four dollars and ninety-two cents. If sold at 14 cents per pound, it yielded the sum of three hundred ninety four thousand two hundred and eighty dollars and seventy four cents. If at 16 cents per pound, the county received four hundred and fifty thousand six hundred six dollars and fifty six cents.

In these estimates no allowance or deduction has been made for the quantity used for home consumption. The reader can best allow for this, as well as fix the prices of the commodity in 1844.

CHEESE PRODUCE IN 1844.

We should be happy if we could exhibit to the reader a comparative table, showing the growth of the dairy, now the staple business of the county, from its origin to the present time. But there are no means of obtaining the information requisite to this undertaking. When we come to the neat stock raised in the county, the reader may form some vague idea of the increase of the butter and cheese trade for the past ten years. We may affirm that this branch of commerce among us had its real beginning between the years 1837 and 1840. Many years earlier dairying was followed, in some isolated instances, by farmers, tho' this but rarely!

We will here observe that there has been a marked increase of butter and cheese making in the county in the year we write (1850) over the year 1845, at which time our estimates are taken.

In the year 1844 there were made in the county 1,143,057 pounds of cheese. Columbus made 345,559 pounds; 153,655 pounds were made in New Berlin;

108,000 pounds in Sherburne. German made but 4,158 pounds. In this year, Guilford put down the most butter; and Otselec the least.

The census of 1850 will exhibit as we remarked, an amazing increase in butter and cheese beyond the census of 1845. Not only is an augmented quantity manufactured over former years, but by practice confirmed by experience, the Chenango farmers have come to present, in the New York market, a quality of cheese and butter as rich and well flavored as the best productions of Orange County.

Several kinds of cheese are put up in this county for foreign consumption. The "pine-apple cheese" is now made by many farmers, and sells in New York City at high prices, for shipment to warm countries. It is so protected as to withstand a high degree of heat. The incrustated rind renders it impervious to insects or vermin and preserves it nutritious for a number of years. Much labor and skill is required to prepare it properly for market. Its shape and color renders it very ornamental for the table.

The most extensive dairy carried on upon a *single* farm in the county, so far as our information extends, consists of something over ninety milching cows. One farmer in the county, is proprietor of between four and five hundred cows, distributed about upon different farms. This branch of business affords profitable employment to men and women.—In the year 1845 there were, as stated before, of cows in the county 29,006, of these Guilford contained the most, and Lincklean the least.

BUTTER AND CHEESE MADE IN THE YEAR 1849.

The President of the "Chenango Agricultural Society" has politely furnished us with a statement, or rather estimate, of the quantity of butter and cheese made in the county in that year (1849). It is an extract from the report

read before the society. We will here insert it at length even at the risk of repetition. It reads in this wise—

"A large proportion of our farmers are engaged in the business of making butter and cheese. Our fine pastures and pure water enable our dairymen to manufacture large quantities of excellent butter which commands good prices in market. *It is to be noticed to the credit of our butter making, that at the last State Fair, the first premium on butter was awarded to a Chenango farmer.*—The books kept at the canal offices and store-houses enable us to state the quantity of butter and cheese sent to market by the Chenango Canal this year. It is as follows. Of butter, after deducting weight of tubs and firkins, 1,966,929 pounds. Of cheese 1,035,256 pounds."

"It is estimated that one tenth of the quantity of butter and cheese manufactured finds its way to market by the N. York and Erie Rail Road, and by routes other than the Chenango Canal, which, when added to the above figures, makes, in the aggregate, 2,185,476 pounds of butter and 1,150,284 pounds of cheese that was sent to market from this county during the year."

The President adds: "I have no means of ascertaining the quantity consumed in the county. When the coming census statistics are published it will probably appear that the butter made was three and a half millions of pounds, and the cheese two millions of pounds."

By making an estimate or estimates of the value of the butter and cheese as we have already done in the year 1845 the reader will pretty nearly arrive at the increase of these branches of farming in the county.

The value of the butter made in 1849, if reckoned at the value of 14 cents by the pound, amounted to four hundred and ninety thousand dollars. If reckoned at 15 cents, it amounted to five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. If at 16 cents it amounted to five hundred and sixty thousand dollars. By referring back to the statements concerning butter making in 1841, the reader

can readily compare the present estimates with the census of 1845.

The cheese manufactured in the county is of various qualities, bearing very different prices and the aggregate value is not for this reason so readily arrived at.

NEAT CATTLE IN THE COUNTY.

In the year 1835 the county contained 56,916 head of neat Cattle. Norwich, Oxford, Guilford and Greene possessed the most. Each of these towns owned something over four thousand. Lincklaen owned only about 1400 head.

In 1845 the county contained, 29,006 milching cows, 11,308 calves under a year old and 52,640 head of cattle over one year of age. This table does not show material advance in stock raising for ten years. Breeding of fat stock for the eastern market was an extensive branch of business in this county about fifteen years ago. But of late years, as a dairy commerce has been created in Chenango, and every heavy farmer is more or less a trader also (in butter and cheese) the public attention has been more confined to breeding, and importing into the county a superior quality of cows, neglecting fat cattle.

Western New York and Ohio, in particular, furnish us large quotas of these animals yearly. The number of cows now owned in the county bears a far greater proportion to the other kinds of neat stock than in the year 1830, up to 1840—Milching cattle have not only advanced in numbers here, but an equal advance in their value has likewise occurred.

WOOL GROWING BUSINESS.

The farmers of the county long ago raised more or less sheep; but the wool produced was chiefly confined to home consumption. In the year 1810, the private looms in the county fabricated of woolen, linen and mixed cloths, 217,571 yards. 37,800 yards of cloth were dressed at the Fulling Mills. 39,000 pounds

of wool were carded by machinery. After this time, cotton began to be introduced into the county; but the use of it was then a luxury, to be afforded only, by the wealthy few. A rough cotton shirt cost as much, forty years ago, as a linen garment of finest texture does at this time.

Wool, at an early day, was not as now, a cash commodity in our market. The manufacturer made it into cloth and deducted out his toll as the flouring establishments practice with their customers. There was no fixed price for wool when it was exchanged for merchandize or products of the land. The price was regulated by the appetite of the buyer, coupled with the wants and necessities of the seller.

We believe the first cash opening of the wool market in Chenango was about the year 1824. In this year, George Field, then a Norwich merchant, while in the city of New York, conversed with dealers relative to the cash value in the city of the various products raised in this county. He also examined "prices current" and shipping-lists. He gathered what information was to be obtained from these various sources and returned home. After some time's reflection upon the chances of turning produce raised here into money, he at length concluded to embark in a fleece-wool adventure; after associating with Thomas Milner, he posted advertisements and dispatched agents and store-clerks into many different quarters, among farmers, residing both in and out of the county, to buy all the stock on hand, for cash, at prices ranging from twenty eight to forty two cents per pound.

After the most indefatigable exertions (in and out of the county) Messrs. Field and Milner succeeded in buying 9,000 pounds, and no more. Such an unexpected foray, among the wool-growers, created immense surprise. Selling in one season, so many pounds and this quantity falling into single hands was past all comprehension. Mr. Field collected his multifarious purchases together and transported them to N. York

city; arrived there he found the market feeble and depressed. He finally sold out to the "Pamecha manufacturing company" doing business at Middletown in Connecticut, and realized a fair profit; after paying the heavy expenses, incurred to get the various purchases collected together at the county seat.

We are indebted to Mr. Field for most of the statements made above. Mr. F. is not positive of the year, nor does he positively say that he was the first cash purchaser at wholesale. His language is "I believe I was the first person who ever bought from the growers of Chenango and paid cash."

The next year Mr. Field purchased on his own account 100,000 pounds of wool with infinitely less trouble and travel than he had purchased the 9,000 pounds the year preceding.

After the market had once opened briskly in Norwich, new buyers appeared and bought heavily for many years. Besides Thomas Milner; Squire Smith, David E. S. Bedford, David Griffing and subsequently Messrs. Berry, Sanford Gen. O. G. Rundell and others embarked and continued the wool speculation until the annual sales within the county, some years, amounted to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and upwards, as we are advised.

Passing down to a later day, we find in the census of 1835 a statement that Chenango county contained in this year, in round numbers, 161,220 sheep. In 1845, the county contained 223,453. In ten years the stock of sheep had increased 62,233. Chenango produced in this year 503,938 pounds of wool. In the year 1835 Norwich and North Norwich contained 25,468 head of sheep. German but 2276. Sherburne was the next town to Norwich and contained but about half as many. Norwich village, being the seat of the wool buyers, may have produced this singular result.—Preston, Oxford and New Berlin reared many sheep in this year.

In 1845 Norwich and North Norwich raised no less than 35,975 sheep. Sherburne 21,573. Sayrna 15,000 and over.

German the lowest town, 5107.

Of late, the low prices that wool bears have somewhat discouraged our farmers from persevering in this branch of agriculture : and independent of low prices, in recent times a powerful competition, in the wool growing traffic, has arisen in the young west. In that temperate climate, animals are reared and nurtured at trifling cost ; cattle and horses as well as sheep. On the wild grass of the prairie they particularly thrive and find abundant subsistence for most part of the year.

The fleece of the sheep, in the West is of a coarse texture : But this tendency is kept down, for the most part in the young, by constant importations of fine woolled males from the New England States, and from Vermont in particular. After a considerable time the soft fleece of the Vermont stock, even of that imported, yields to another of coarser fibre. This may be accounted for by the rank nature of the western grass herbage, and also by the much greater and longer continued heat to which the wool is exposed before it is gathered.

SWINE RAISING.

Chenango fattens but few hogs for exportation. In the year 1835 the whole number in the county amounted to only 27,871 head. These were pretty equally distributed among the towns. In 1845, the farmers had fallen off in their supply of this kind of stock as there were then but 23,949 head in the county ; showing a decrease of several thousand, notwithstanding the increase of offal from the dairy. Of late, several merchants, in the county, embarked in the pork-buying business extensively.—Most of these made contracts with jobbers to feed their hands, for the time, at work constructing the Erie Rail Road. The buyers also had farther contracts with the coal miners of Pennsylvania.—We believe this trade has now nearly ceased.

HORSES.

The county has, in times past, been famous for rearing valuable blood horses. Many years ago numerous farmers from Dutchess county vied with each other in this branch of breeding. The principal competitors were the Per Lee family.—They imported and dispersed about the county many useful acquisitions to this kind of stock. The county is much indebted to Dutchess for the principal part of what choice blood yet remains. Our soil and climate is very favorable to the development of the horse. Sufficient attention has not been paid to breeds to keep up a proper purity in the race of late years. Fillies are but seldom spared from work to rear colts, but on the contrary our farmers, bent on economy ; a bad economy as we think ! devote aged mares, or those that have been overtasked, until they fail of their usefulness in harness, to reproduction of young.

In addition to the efforts of the Messrs. Per Lees to improve the Chenango horse : Gen. German, and several others, contributed much in former days.

The Gen. brought one horse into the county that had many distinguished descendants. There is now a steady commerce carried on between the horsemerchants of the county and the New York City buyers. Indeed Norwich and other villages are already miniature "Tattersalls" in the buying and selling way. The best animals are selected and the inferior left for home service. We have said enough, caution is not taken to improve or to preserve our stock and the breed has not been kept up ; we might qualify the statement, perhaps, by advising farmers that if the horse has not in their estimation deteriorated as yet, still the time must arrive when degeneracy will follow, unless care and skill are employed to fortify against it. It requires several generations to obliterate a choice stock, but time will do it. It is as cheap for farmers to rear valuable

colts, as it is to breed common ones ; besides it is far more profitable in the end.

In the year 1835, the county contained 12,287 horses. In 1845 or in ten years the number became reduced to 10,416. The dairy seems to have absorbed partially even the business of horse raising, as it has a great many other branches, formerly exercised by the rural population.

We might here remark that experience has proved the "Morgan Horse" to be the best roadster in the United States. When our plank roads are completed there will be an increased demand for these small, compact, hardy, docile and nimble travellers. They are not as yet introduced much among us, but we think will be. The railroads of a country diminish animal labor and gradually supersede it for road purposes. England we understand, contains less than one half the horses it did in 1830; the year rail carriages were introduced on that Island. There is perhaps, owing to this cause, a diminished demand for horses in this state and this may account for the decrease of this species of stock in Chenango.

We now pass from the stock of the county. Within two or three years a considerable commerce has grown out of the buying up of eggs for the New York market. Hitherto, the west has monopolized this trade, but some of our citizens have made adventures and realized amazing profits for the amount of money invested. It would be well for farmers to supply themselves with a copy of the "Poulterer's Companion," a cheap work for sale at our book stores. Those who have embarked in poultry have thus far been amply rewarded and in time will be yet better paid. The most approved method of keeping poultry is to have a yard picketed to confine them during the planting season. Fowls to be healthy require the freedom of a farm ; and yet they thrive exceeding well when yarded in our villages.

GRIST MILLS.

The value of the grains ground in the county amounted in 1845 to \$185,220. There were forty four mills in the county that ground up wheat, rye, oats, corn, barley &c., &c. Five of these were in Bainbridge. Two in Coventry. One in Smithville. Three in Sherburne. Two in Smyrna. One in Plymouth. Two in Preston. Three in Pitcher. One in Pharsalia. Two in Otsele. Three in Oxford. Four in New Berlin. Six in Norwich and North Norwich. One in McDonough. One in Lincklean. Two in Greene. Five in Guilford. None in Columbus and German.

The mills vary in size and capacity from two "run of stone" up to four.— We believe no wheat or other grain is prepared in the county for foreign markets : But what is manufactured is consumed at home. Norwich in this year manufactured twenty four thousand six hundred and twenty dollars worth of the different grains. Oxford about the same amount

SAW MILLS.

Of these there were 225 employed in the county in 1845. Twenty two of them were in Norwich. Recently the number has increased beyond this estimate. The value of lumber sawed at these mills, in this year, amounted to ninety nine thousand, eighty one dollars. The value of the raw material got out for the mills was but fifty thousand four hundred and seventy seven dollars. New Berlin is put down in the census returns of that year as containing thirteen mills and the whole as turning out only six hundred dollars worth of lumber and as receiving *but one hundred and ninety dollars worth of logs*. This seems a low statement for so many mills. Columbus with five mills turned out lumber in the same year to the value of eleven hundred dollars. Bainbridge, with twenty one mills, sawed eighteen thousand eighty eight dollars worth. Greene

twelve thousand nine hundred seventy six dollars. Norwich ten thousand five hundred forty five dollars. McDonough ninety six hundred and thirty five dollars. Guilford sixty hundred and sixty dollars. All the other towns manufactured of lumber less than five thousand dollars in value.

Of late, the Messrs. Smiths of Norwich and others in the county have placed in the sawing mills a reaction water wheel that drives the saw with wonderful velocity. The wheel is fastened horizontally upon a perpendicular shaft. This pattern of wheels is quite new and seems to possess advantages over all others hitherto in use.

OIL MILLS.

In 1845 there were three oil mills in the county. One in Norwich, another in Guilford and a third in Smyrna.—The value of the raw material used was forty three hundred dollars. After it was manufactured, the value was fifty nine hundred. Earnings of these mills 1600 dollars.

FULLING MILLS.

Of this class of mills there were in 1845 as many as twenty three. Columbus, German, Greene, Lincklean and Pharsalia were the only towns in the county without them. Smyrna, Plymouth, Otselic, New Berlin, McDonough and Coventry had one each. All of the remaining towns had two each. The value of the raw material used in these various mills amounted to thirty seven thousand seven hundred and two dollars. The value of the same after it was manufactured were fifty one thousand eight hundred and seven dollars. Or the nett production or earnings of these mills amounted to fourteen thousand one hundred and thirty eight dollars.

CARDING MACHINES.

In 1845 there were twenty seven carding machines in the county. Columbus, German, Greene, Lincklean and Pharsalia were the only towns without

them. Guilford had four, the highest number in the county. The value of the raw material used in these mills amounted to forty five thousand four hundred and sixty seven dollars. The same after it was manufactured amounted to fifty three thousand one hundred eighty three dollars. Nett earnings or wealth produced by these mills were seven thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars.

COTTON FACTORIES.

Of these there were in 1845 but two in the county. One in Guilford and one in New Berlin. The one in Guilford consumed raw cotton to the value of one thousand dollars. The value of the manufactured article was twenty five hundred dollars. Nett proceeds fifteen hundred dollars. The New Berlin cotton factory consumed in this year of raw cotton sixteen thousand nine hundred and seventy five dollars worth of raw material. The manufactured article was valued at thirty six thousand six hundred and eighty three dollars. Nett proceeds for the year, nineteen thousand seven hundred and eight dollars. In the estimates of profits of the different mills we do not deduct the out-goes for labor &c., &c.

WOOLEN FACTORIES.

There were six of these factories in the county in 1845. Guilford contained two. Preston two and Smyrna and Pitcher one each. The value of the material worked was sixty nine hundred and fifty four dollars. The value of the same after it was manufactured amounted to thirteen thousand three hundred and eighty eight dollars. The profits of these mills according to this estimate for the year were sixty four hundred and thirty four dollars. There were eighteen thousand two hundred and eight yards of cloth made by these mills in this year. The woollen mill in Smyrna also made up four hundred and twelve yards of cotton and woollen cloth during the year.

IRON FOUNDRIES.

The census of 1845 records four iron foundries in the county ; two of them in Smithville ; one in Norwich and the fourth in Greene. The value of the articles wrought in these establishments, was thirteen thousand seven hundred and sixty one dollars. The most extensive one was at Norwich. This foundry worked up nearly twice as much raw material as all the other mills.

TRIP HAMMERS.

Of these factories there were six in the county in the year 1845. Two were in McDonough ; and one in each of the towns of Greene, Smyrna, Plymouth and Pitcher. These consumed material to the amount of seventeen hundred and five dollars. The value of the articles wrought amounted to four thousand eight hundred and sixty five dollars. Nett proceeds of these establishments including the expenditures of running them were thirty one hundred and sixty dollars.

DISTILLERIES.

Of these establishments there were, in the county in the year 1845, according to the state census, none at all !!! How much Chenango has improved in this respect over the year 1813 will be apparent on reading an extract taken from the "New York State Gazetteer" printed in that year by Horatio Gates Spafford. Mr. S. first compliments the county and concludes with the following disqualifying remarks. He says "while the people of the county are entitled to credit for their common Schools and social regulations, they ought to exclude a multitude of small distilleries. No invidious discrimination prompts this remark, too generally necessary throughout the State—but thinking and sober men would do well to consider the tendencies of these little establishments, and to observe their effects in a neighborhood. Cider is a *wholesome*, cheap

beverage, which may be readily supplied in profusion, to every part of the State ; and *malt liquors are wholesome and nutritious*. Will people use equal industry to encourage the growth of an orchard of apple-trees, when once addicted to a habit of exchanging their rye and other grain for whiskey ? Or will they fail to contract habits of drinking more than is conducive to health or comfort, when a jug of whiskey is either constantly at hand, or can be had in a few minutes *fresh* from the distillery ? But these observations apply equally to most of the Western counties, and they are deserving of notice."

Whether there is any article in the modern temperance rubric allowing the use of cider and malt liquors as a *wholesome and nutritious beverage*, in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Spafford, as given above, we will not pretend to determine. But Mr. S. wrote thirty six years ago—almost in another age, before temperance societies were developed, and at a time when every person kept ardent spirits in the cupboards or on the side-board. As Mr. S. complimented our citizens highly in 1813, except they patronized distilleries, and as they had not one of these establishments in the county in 1845, it follows we must have been an unexceptionable people in this latter year. Long may we continue so !

ASHERIES.

Chenango in 1845 contained nineteen asheries. Preston, Oxford, New Berlin, Norwich, Greene, Columbus and Bainbridge were the only towns without them. Pitcher had three and consumed of the raw material twenty four hundred and ten dollars in value. The quantity of ashes used in the different parts of the county for manufacturing purposes was twelve thousand seven hundred and ten dollars worth. Value of the manufactured ashes was sixteen thousand five hundred and sixty one dollars. Nett proceeds over cost was thirty eight hundred and fifty one dollars.

ROPE FACTORIES.

There were six of these in the county in 1845. In Otselic two. New Berlin, Pharsalia, Guilford and Green contained each one. The Pharsalia factory alone consumed of raw material one thousand dollars, and made four thousand dollars worth of rope. This establishment made twice as much rope as any two of the other establishments. The value of material wrought in the county was thirty four hundred and ten dollars; after it was wrought the value was increased to ninety eight hundred and twenty dollars. Nett proceeds between cost and the value after manufacture, sixty four hundred and ten dollars.

PAPER MILLS.

There were two establishments of this kind in the county, as noted down in the census of 1845. One was in McDonough and one in New Berlin. The two used in this year thirty four hundred and twenty dollars worth of material, and the value of the same after it was manufactured was ninety six hundred dollars. Wealth produced amounted to sixty one hundred and eighty dollars including expenses &c.

TANNERIES.

Of these there were no less than thirty six in the county in the year 1845.—German was the only town without one. Green and Guilford each contained four. Value of the raw material made into leather was fifty one thousand and fifty nine dollars; the value of the leather manufactured was eighty six thousand five hundred thirty four dollars. Wealth produced by the tanneries foots up at thirty five thousand four hundred and seventy five dollars.

BREWERIES.

The county contained two in 1845; one in Norwich and the other in New Berlin. These worked up of raw material, thirty one hundred dollars. The value of the same, manufactured was fifty three hundred dollars, or twenty two hundred dollars over prime cost for material. We shall again have occasion to speak of the Norwich Brewery, which at present makes ale for most of the towns situated between Utica and Binghamton.

In the year 1845, according to the census returns, the county contained fifty one hundred and twenty two farmers. One hundred and fifty five merchants. Two hundred forty three manufacturers. Twelve hundred thirty six mechanics.—Fifty one attorneys. Ninety four clergymen (receiving salaries and perquisites amounting in the aggregate to twenty three thousand, six hundred and seventy one dollars.)

The county also contained seventy one physicians. It contained eighty innkeepers. One hundred and ten stores; exclusive of grocery stores. Of this number twenty four were in Norwich.—Nine in New Berlin. Eighteen in Oxford. Ten in Sherburne and eleven in Greene. Of Grocery stores there were but twenty four in the county.

CHURCHES OR HOUSES OF WORSHIP.

Having finished what we have to offer the reader pertaining to the agriculture, arts and manufactures of the county in the year 1845, it being the year when the latest census was taken, we next proceed to the Churches, Academies, private, select and Common Schools in the county. Of the Church-

es and Academies we design to publish more details, under another arrangement of the history. There were seven denominations in the county, composed of Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Quaker and Universalist. Within the past year 1849, a Roman Catholic Church has been founded in Oxford. There were not nor are there now, so far as we are advised, any Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Unitarian or Jewish sects among us.

The Baptist societies in 1845 had twenty seven Churches. The Presbyterian eight. The Episcopalian eight.—The Congregational thirteen. The Methodist twenty two, and the Universalist five. Whole number eighty four including the Catholic.

Of these various denominations the society wealth stands in 1845 as follows :

The Baptist Societies had invested in Church buildings, in real estate upon which the edifices were erected, and in other improvements connected with these the sum of fifty four thousand one hundred dollars. The Presbyterian nineteen thousand seven hundred and seventy five dollars. The Episcopalian twenty four thousand six hundred forty five dollars. The Congregational thirty four thousand thirty five dollars. The Universalist fifteen thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, and the Methodist thirty three thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars. The foregoing statement varies somewhat from our former conceptions of the wealth of the various Churches, but our estimates are derived from the census which is authority that must govern on this point.

The Baptist society in Norwich is the wealthiest in the county by several thousand dollars.

The capital invested (in the county) in Churches amounted in 1845 to one hundred eighty one thousand six hundred twenty three dollars ; the Catholic society is not included in this estimate. The wealthiest Presbyterian society is at Norwich. Oxford is second in wealth, the Pharsalia society is third. In this year

there were in the towns of Smithville, Sherburne, Smyrna, Plymouth, Pitcher, Otselic, New Berlin, Lincklaen, Bainbridge, Coventry, Columbus and German no Presbyterian Churches. There were two societies in Pharsalia and one in each of the remaining towns in the county.

There was no Baptist society in the towns of Plymouth, Pharsalia and German. The town of Greene had four societies. Norwich three. Smithville, Smyrna, Sherburne, Preston, Otselic, New Berlin and Guilford contained two societies each. The remaining seven towns contained one society each.

In the towns of Coventry, Columbus, German, Lincklaen, McDonough, Otselic, Pharsalia, Pitcher, Preston, Plymouth, Smyrna and Smithville there were no Episcopalian Churches in 1845.

In Guilford there were two, and one in each of the other towns in the County.

The Citizens of New Berlin have recently erected an Episcopal house in that village on an extensive scale. The building is constructed in the early style of Gothic architecture, and carries the spectator back, in imagination, to the dark ages. In estimating the Episcopal wealth in the county this costly edifice is not taken into the account.

The New-Berlin Church is worthy of a more elaborate notice than we shall be able to give to it in this place. We may recur to it again. In the mean time, if our citizens desire to examine a rude structure, different from every other and all things else in the county, we advise them not to deprive themselves of the gratification of paying one visit to this neat, compact and unique Church.

The towns of Greene, German, McDonough, Norwich, Oxford, Otselic, Pharsalia, Preston and Smithville were each in 1845 without a Congregational Church building. Coventry, New Berlin and Pitcher had two each. The remaining towns had one each. The Congregational property in Pitcher has cost, including grounds and improvements made to the buildings, the sum of 4,700 dollars.

The aggregate cost of the Presbyterian and Congregational houses of worship in the county, including grounds and improvements, amounts to the sum of Fifty-three thousand eight hundred and ten dollars. Many, very many of the early settlers here from New England belonged to the Congregationalists sect of Christians.

Passing the Congregationalists we next come to the Methodist Denomination. The towns of Columbus, German, Preston, Pharsalia, and Otselic contained no churches of this persuasion in the year 1845. In the town of Guilford there were three Methodist churches, at a cost of Fifty-five hundred and forty dollars for buildings, grounds and improvements. Bainbridge, Greene, Norwich, New Berlin, Pitcher and Smyrna each contained two Methodist churches and the remaining towns contained one each.

There was in 1845, one society of Quakers in Smyrna, the only one in the county. The cost of their church, grounds and improvements may be put down at Eight hundred and forty dollars.

There was, in 1845, a society of Universalists in each of the towns of Bainbridge, Columbus, North Norwich, Oxford and Smithville. There were no others in the county. The Oxford Congregation was the wealthiest of the five. The cost of the Church, grounds and improvements of the Oxford society amounted to thirty five hundred and fifty dollars. The cost to the Bainbridge Congregation for house, grounds and improvements, amounted to three thousand dollars. We have estimated the wealth of the various denominations by the value of their Church property. In a few instances congregations or societies are

yet indebted for buildings and grounds.

Indeed, religious societies in this state are apt to exhaust so much of their means in the construction of costly Churches as to have but little left to defray the expense of preaching. We are not aware of but few Churches in the county at present struggling to pay off their building debt. Wherever this occurs, the clergyman is but indifferently paid for his services. No clergyman can be thoroughly and efficiently useful to his flock, whose spirits are constantly depressed by impending want. No class of men in the United States labour, in aggregates more than clergymen and no class of labourers are more poorly paid. The strictest economy enables the mass of them to work out a subsistence in the pulpit, but with a certain prospect of poverty in old age.

There were no Colleges, Universities, Female-Seminaries or Normal Schools in the county in 1845; and none at present so far as we are informed. There were Academies, Common, Private and Select Schools.

We propose to give a brief account of each of these institutions of learning.

It was but a few years ago, that the only Academy proper, in the county was the Oxford institution. Most of the youths seeking a classical education were sent abroad; some to Hamilton, some to Homer and others to Hartwick, in Otsego County. The recent establishment of academies in many towns in the county, and the supply of thoroughly educated teachers, renders learning in Chenango no longer the especial privilege of wealth, as formerly it was. It is worthy of remark, as illustrating the

qualifications of our teachers, that Mr. Paige, recent principal of the Norwich Academy, after leaving that town, was promptly elected professor of Mathematics, in Geneva College ; to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Professor Webster, one of the very best scholars, (in figures) that the West Point Academy ever graduated.

ACADEMIES.

There were four of these institutions in the county in 1845. They were distributed in the towns of New Berlin, Oxford, Sherburne and Norwich. The amount of Capital invested in these institutions for buildings, grounds and improvements, was twenty one thousand one hundred and fifteen dollars. The monies invested in the Sherburne institution were thirty three hundred dollars. In the Oxford academy there was invested eighty six hundred seventy six dollars. In the New Berlin academy twenty-nine hundred and fifty dollars ; and in the Institution at Norwich sixty one hundred and eighty nine dollars.

The Oxford Academy is, by far, the oldest institution of learning in the county.

PRIVATE AND SELECT SCHOOLS.

There were twenty two of these in the county in 1845. Columbus, Guilford, German, Lincklean, New Berlin, Oxford, Otselic, Pharsalia and Smithville were the only towns without them. Bainbridge supported four. McDonough, Norwich and Pitcher had three each. Smyrna, Plymouth and Greene had two each. There was one in each of the remaining towns. The cost of buildings, grounds and improvements for these amounted to fifteen hundred and ten dollars. Eight hundred and twenty five pupils attended these schools.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

We come now to speak of Common Schools, so truly he boast and glory not only of Chenango, but of the State at large. We propose, even at the hazard of fatiguing the reader with multiplied Statistics, to enter upon an account of the origin and progress of the Common School system, from its early dawn down to the time when it attained its meridian. We begin by transferring to our pages, the remarks of J. H. Mather and L. P. Brockett, M. D.—publishers of a “Geographical History of the State of New York” (printed in the year 1848, on the origin and History of the Common School system. They remark :

“Though less zealous in the cause of popular education than the early settlers of New England, yet, ere the forest had been felled, or the Indian War-hoop ceased to be heard, in the neighborhood of the white-settlements, the sturdy Hollanders of New York began to provide for the education of their children.

“In 1633, Adam Rolandsen, the first school-master of New Amsterdam, arrived in that city. In 1642 the Patroon, Van Ransaelaer, sent over a school-master for his “colonie.”

“The first classical school or academy, was established in New York City, the teacher being sent out from Holland by the Dutch West India Company. In all the Dutch settlements, provision was early made for schools.”

“In 1687, a Latin School was opened in the city of New York, under the sanction of the English Government. In 1702, the first legislative action, relative to education, occurred. This act provided for the establishment of a grammar school, and appropriated fifty pounds per annum, for seven years, for the support of a teacher.”

“Another act was passed, in 1732, to

encourage a public-school, in the city and county of New York, for teaching Latin, Greek and Mathematics."

"Under this act a free-school was established, and endowed with forty pounds a year for five years; and ten scholars were to be sent from New York, two from Albany, and one from each of the other counties, making twenty in all.— This school was the germ of Columbia College in New York city."

"In 1743 the Rev. Mr. Dunlap, of Cherry-Valley, Otsego county, established the first grammar-school in the State, west of Albany. Between 1746 and 1756, several acts were passed, authorizing the raising of moneys, by lottery, for founding a College in New York, and in 1754, King's College was chartered."

"After the establishment in 1777 of a state government in New York, the interest of the people began to be awakened to the necessity of popular education. On the first day of May, 1784, an act was passed, changing the name of King's-College to Columbia College, and establishing the board of regents of the University of New York."

"In 1789, lands were especially set apart, in the several new townships, for the promotion of literature, and the support of Common Schools. The proceeds of certain lands were also appropriated, in 1790, by the regents, to the institution under their care. Their income, arising from this source, in 1792, was increased by the grant of fifteen hundred pounds per annum, for five years.

"In 1793, the regents, in their report, suggested the importance of establishing schools in various parts of the State, for instructing children in the lower branches of education. These suggestions were renewed for the two years following, and in 1795, a common-school system was established.

"In 1801, an act was passed, authorizing the establishment of four lotteries, to raise the sum of twenty five thousand dollars each, one half to be paid to the regents of the University, and the other to the State Treasury, to be applied for

the use of Common Schools. This was the foundation of the "literature and Common School fund."

"In 1805, five hundred thousand acres of public land were appropriated to the use of Common Schools. (This appropriation is explained in a subsequent page of the history.) In addition to this, three thousand shares of Bank Stock, were also appropriated, as a fund to assist in the support of these schools."

"The first State Superintendent was Gideon Hawley, Esq., appointed in the year 1813."

"In the year 1838, the sum of one hundred sixty five thousand dollars per year, from the annual revenue of the United States deposit fund, was added to the amount previously distributed — Of this amount, fifty five thousand dollars was to be expended yearly, in the purchase of suitable books for district libraries."

Article nine of the State Constitution of 1846, section first, reads in this wise: "The Capital of the Common School Fund; the Capital of the Literature Fund, and the Capital of the U. States D. Fund, shall be respectively preserved inviolate. The revenue of the said Common School Fund shall be applied to the support of Common Schools, the revenues of the said Literature Fund shall be applied to the support of Academies, and the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars of the revenues of the United States deposit Fund shall each year be appropriated to and made a part of the Capital of the said Common School Fund."

The editors of the State history continue. "Of these State lands, i. e. school lands as yet unsold, (in 1818) there remain about three hundred and fifty thousand acres, lying mostly in the northern part of the State, and valued at one hundred and seventy five thousand dollars. These constitute the *unproductive* portion of the school fund."

On the 26th March 1850, a select committee of the legislature, to whom was referred all petitions for the amendment or repeal of the free School Law; by Lewis Kingsley, their chairman, re-

ported an historical account of the origin of "Common Schools" in this State.— We will lay before the reader a brief account of Mr. K's investigations.

"In the year 1795 the legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars annually for five years, among the different towns in the State to maintain common schools. The towns were to raise a sum, equal to that granted for the same purpose.— In the year 1805, the legislature made a permanent fund, created out of land sales for the support of these schools. Under the first law no more than one hundred and forty nine thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars was actually paid by the State. The last payment was made in 1801. After this year, down to the year 1814 no payments were made by the State for Common School purposes. After this year, the act of 1805 became operative and yielded a revenue to the schools. The terms of this act required the comptroller to receive from the Surveyor-General the income of five hundred thousand acres of land to be sold and invest it, by loan, on bonds and mortgages, until the accumulation of interest paid in, and again loaned out, together with the sum realized from land sales, should yield fifty thousand dollars annually of interest. This last mentioned amount to be distributed among the school districts once in each year.

In the year 1810 another act was passed providing payment to the clerks of the Supreme Court their fees, and the excess to be appropriated to the Common School fund. It was several years before a surplus was realized from this source. After some seventy eight thousand dollars had been received, under

this act, it was repealed in the year 1821.

In the year 1811 the Governor of the State, under a power conferred in the "supply bill," appointed three commissioners, to report to the next legislature a system for the organization and establishment of Common Schools. On a report of this committee, the legislature on the 19th June 1812 passed a law which was the basis of the recent Common School system, abolished in the year 1849, to make room for the free-school plan—at present a novel experiment and by many, thought to be involved in serious uncertainty. Under the law of 1812 a State superintendent was appointed with authority to apportion the public monies to such towns as *voluntarily* raised an equal amount by tax. In 1814 the Supervisors of each County were authorized to raise, by compulsory tax on the several towns annually, a sum equivalent to that received by them from the State.

In the year 1821 the Secretary of State became *ex officio*, the State Superintendent of the Common Schools.

The first appropriation, for the benefit of Common Schools, arising from the fund created in 1805, was made in 1814 and amounted only to forty eight thousand three hundred and seventy six dollars.

This small fund of 1805 was the nucleus around which, by various appropriations and other means, stupendous School wealth has since accumulated.— As a small body of snow, tumbling down the mountain side increases its volume at each revolution; so the School fund has increased, in many ways, until in the

year 1850, it amounts to *two million two hundred and forty four thousand dollars*. From this fund is annually distributed among Common Schools, no less than, two hundred and eighty five thousand dollars. The fund itself is still increasing. The number of children attending these Schools in 1849 was eight hundred thousand.

Mr. Kingsley briefly states the provisions of the Common School law recently abolished, as follows :

"By that system the State annually distributed to the several towns within its borders, their proportionate share of the revenues of the Common School fund. The boards of Supervisors, at their annual meetings caused to be levied, on each of the towns in their counties, a sum equal in amount to that received from the State, and such further sums as the electors of the town might have directed ; these sums (with the addition of that received by some towns from *local* and other funds, and amounting, in all the State, to an annual average of \$20,000) made the public money of the town. This was divided among the several School districts of the town in proportion to the number of children therein, over five and under sixteen years of age, according to the last report of the district trustees. Schools were to be kept during four months in each year, and for such longer time as the trustees should determine, and the amount remaining due for teachers wages, after deducting the public money, was raised by rate-bills from those sending to the school, they being taxed for that purpose in proportion to the number of days their children had attended the school. The system worked well. Minor defects were from time to time discovered in it, which were rectified as fast and as well as possible. No material alterations were made in it from the time of its institution in 1812, except those before mentioned, until within a very recent period."

Mr. Kingsley next recites the features of the "*Free School Law*" as follows : "In the first place, it provided that, Common Schools in the several school districts of the State shall be free to all persons residing in the district over five and under twenty one years of age," and that non-residents might be admitted, on such terms as the trustees should impose. It next provided that, *in addition to the amount of public money before raised*, there should be collected, by a tax levied on the counties, *a sum equal to that received by the counties from the State* ; making an *increase of fifty per centum* upon the amount theretofore raised by tax. The whole amount so raised, to be divided among the districts in the same manner as by the previous law," &c. "Then came the third section of the act, which, *taking that power from the trustees*, in whose hands it had before been, gave to the inhabitants of the district the voting of what the Common School expenses of the district for the succeeding year should be ; and the amount they fixed, after deducting the public money, was to be raised, by a tax upon the property of the district liable to taxation."

Upon the merits or demerits of the "*Free-School-Law*" we shall personally express no opinion. The law of 1849 was certainly defective in some, at least, of its details. These defects the legislature has professed to correct. Whether this body has amended *for the better* remains to be adjudicated at the coming elections. Chenango County gave in 1849, a very unequivocal vote against the adoption of free schools to take the place of the time honored Common-Schools. What her sentiments may be at the poles the coming fall 1850 remains to be seen.

When upon the subject of the twenty townships we referred (at page 32) to the "*Gospel and School Lots*." We then traced these no farther down than to the year 1805, when the Surveyor General

was directed to cause forty lots, containing two hundred and fifty acres each, or ten thousand acres in gross, to be surveyed and laid out in the western land district, to support schools and the preaching of the gospel. By a law passed in the year 1811, the Surveyor General was directed to lay out forty lots in the tract of land then lately purchased of the Oneida Indians, south of and adjoining the Oneida Lake, or on such lots in the military tract (we have before described the military tract, page 24,) as then belonged to the State. The Surveyor General accordingly surveyed and laid out the forty lots in the tract purchased of the Oneida Indians. No provisions were made for apportioning these lands among the different townships until June, 1812. A law was then passed authorizing the inhabitants of each of the twenty townships, comprising in part the citizens of Chenango, Madison and Oneida counties, to elect an agent to take charge of the lots, to lease the same, to bring suits for trespasses thereon, &c. Commissioners were at the same time appointed to divide the forty lots among the twenty townships, or Governor's Purchase, giving two lots to each township. This duty being performed, the acts of the commissioners were ratified by a law passed in April, 1814, which was to the following effect:

"Whereas, by an act of the Legislature of this State, passed on the 16th day of June, 1812, authorizing the twenty towns west of and adjoining the Unadilla river, to elect one agent from each town, and said agents to meet at Sherburne on the last Tuesday of March then following, and there by a plurality of votes of said agents, so assembled, to elect three commissioners, whose duty it was made to divide said lots, giving to each town two of said lots, and having said division of lots as nearly as possible of an equal value. And whereas, the agents did meet, and by a plurality of votes elect Amos Maynard, Thompson Mead and Chester Hammond commissioners, to divide said lots as equally as possible; and said commissioners did

divide said lands into twenty lots of one hundred and forty-four acres; and twenty lots of one hundred and sixty acres; and twenty lots of one hundred and ninety-six acres; which lots they divided by giving each town one lot of one hundred and forty-four acres, one lot of one hundred and sixty acres, one lot of one hundred and ninety-six acres, and made a description of the same, which was by them duly proved, and was recorded in Madison County Clerk's Office, &c."

"Therefore be it enacted that the doings of the said commissioners in dividing said lots are hereby confirmed, &c. &c."

Under this law the rights of the towns to the school and gospel lots became, for the first time, fixed and determined.—Twenty-three years elapsed between the time they were bestowed by the Legislature and the time they came actually to be enjoyed by the towns as the donees. Other laws relative to these lots have been passed by the Legislature from time to time. We believe the last law was passed in the year 1825. Some of the towns have sold their share of the lots and devoted the proceeds wholly to school purposes. The moneys arising upon sales being loaned out on bonds and mortgages. We are not able to inform the reader the amount realized from the sale of these lots. Nor can we ascertain how far they contributed to the support of town schools. We believe the ten thousand acres set apart by the Surveyor General, lay in the extreme north part of Madison county, and hence the deed of partition by the commissioners, was recorded in that county. The lots that fell to Norwich under the allotment made by the commissioners, Messrs. Maynard, Mead and Hammond, lay in the town of Sullivan, Madison county.

"Gospel and school lots" were not confined to the twenty townships. Coventry, Greene, Guilford, Bainbridge Oxford and other towns out of the twenty townships received lots from the State for school and gospel purposes. The various lots have been in some instances

sold, and the moneys arising on the sales invested or loaned out on bonds and mortgages, as was done in the twenty townships. The inhabitants of other townships out of the twenty towns have leased the lots, retaining the title. The town of Oxford let out its lot, taking a perpetual lease. We believe the fractions of the lots devoted to the support of the gospel, were afterwards wholly applied to the maintenance of schools. The "school and gospel lot" in the original township of Greene, contained 640 acres, or a mile square originally. Afterwards the town of Coventry was set off from the township of Greene, and the new town drew as its share one-third part of the lot.—The lot, for the purpose of a division, was divided into six equal parts. The division was made in the year 1825.—In April of the same year the Legislature authorized Russel Waters and Woodward Warren to sell that part of the school and gospel lot that fell to Coventry in the partition made with Greene, and to invest the moneys arising from the sale on bond and mortgage for the sole use of schools in the new town.

Guilford was set off from Oxford under the name of Eastern. In the year 1817 a law was passed authorizing the supervisors and overseers of the two towns to meet together at the house of William Gable, in Eastern, and divide the school and gospel lot, as well as the moneys, notes, bonds and other securities arising from it.

In Bainbridge the "Congregational Society of Celicia" leased out the school and gospel lot, containing 640 acres, and belonging to that town. In the year 1819 the Legislature transferred the management of the securities taken by this religious society to the school commissioners, with authority to divide the rents and profits between the schools and churches, as the inhabitants might direct.

The "School and Gospel lots" appropriated to the twenty townships were bestowed exclusively for the benefit of the inhabitants of the townships, as such.—

As some of the towns in this county contained two or more townships, or parts of several townships, difficulties as to the distribution of the income arising from these lots, among the schools, frequently arose. There was a prevalent idea among citizens that the lots belonged to an entire town, rather than to the original township or townships, irrespective of town boundaries.

Thus the people of the town of Norwich, in town meeting, voted upon the appointment of agents to superintend the school and gospel lots belonging to the tenth and fifteenth townships. Indeed the confusion became so great, that in the year 1819 the Legislature enacted a law relative to the management of the moneys arising from the sales of these same lots. One provision of the law was, "that on the day of the annual town meeting for the town of Norwich, the *inhabitants of the fifteenth township* should, separate and apart from the inhabitants of the other part of the same town, elect an agent for the fifteenth township, whose name and election must be recorded by the town clerk in the book of town records in Norwich."—Consider Coomes is the present agent for the fifteenth township. Another clause of the law authorized the citizens of North Norwich to elect an agent annually for the same purpose. The first election to be held at the house of Timothy Hunt. This agent was to be elected for the tenth township. In the language of the law, the citizens were to hold the election annually "*until the township shall be erected into a separate town.*" It would seem from this that the citizens of North Norwich contemplated being set off into a separate town thirty years ago. In 1835 a new misunderstanding arose in relation to these school moneys, which called forth an elaborate opinion from Gen. Dix, State Superintendent. This opinion will be found among the common school decisions of 1837.

In 1845 there were of common schools in the county two hundred and sixty-two. The average attendance of pupils

amounted to five thousand three hundred and forty-nine. The number on the teachers' list was eight thousand three hundred and sixty-eight. In the census returns of this year three towns are put down as having no pupils in attendance on these schools. The town of Otselic is set down as having no common schools. Bainbridge had twenty-seven, the highest number in the county. German had eight, the lowest number. Norwich, twenty-five. Sherburne, twenty. Oxford, nineteen. Greene and Guilford, eighteen each. Lincklaen, McDonough, Pharsalia and Pitcher, ten each. Smyrna, fifteen. Coventry, eleven. Plymouth, thirteen. Smithville, fourteen. New Berlin, sixteen. Preston and Columbus, nine each.

The cost of common school buildings, sites for them and their improvements amounted in the year 1845, in the county, to forty-two thousand four hundred and forty-seven dollars. Greene had five hundred and fifty-five pupils in attendance—the greatest number of any of the towns. Preston only one hundred and sixty-two, which was the least number.

We are happy to inform the reader that we have now closed our abstract of the census of 1845. The technical interpretation of the term census, is "an enumeration of the inhabitants of a country or district." But of late years the term seems to have been extended and applied indiscriminately not only to account of human beings, but to a recapitulation of all things animate and inanimate. Hence in speaking of the population of the county, we have been imperceptibly diverted into a description of every thing appertaining to that population.

In the foregoing statistics we omitted to mention that the valuation of taxable property in Chenango, in the year 1845, amounted to the sum, in round numbers, of *four millions one hundred and thirty-three thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars.*

In the Comptroller's report, 1850, we find 536,261 acres of taxable land in

the county. Assessed value of real estate is \$3,712,689; of personal estate \$582,943; aggregate valuation \$4,295,632. The amount of state and county tax as presented to be raised in Chenango, \$13,809, 60-100. Amount of town taxes to be raised \$13,127 19-100. Total taxation upon this county for 1850, \$26,936 79-100.

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

The following is a complete catalogue of members of Assembly who have represented Chenango county:

1795-'99, the 21st and 22d session of the Legislature, Isaac Foote represented Herkimer county, which included part of Chenango, and Benjamin Hovey represented Tioga county, which included the remaining part of Chenango.

1800—23d session, Nathaniel King and Peter B. Guernsey.

1801—24th session, Jonathan Forman and James Glover.

1802—25th session, Joshua Merse-reau, Jr., and Nathaniel King.

1803—26th session, James Green, Joel Thompson, Stephen Hoxie and Uri Tracy.

1804—27th session, Joseph Moore, Stephen Hoxie, Obadiah German and Joel Thompson.

1805—28th session, Luther Waterman, Samuel Payne, Obadiah German and Peter Betts.

1806—29th session, Sylvanus Smalley, Samuel Payne, Benjamin Jones and Jonathan Morgan.

1807—30th session, Obadiah German and Joseph Simonds.

1808—31st session, Peter Betts and Obadiah German.

1809—32d session, Obadiah German and Samuel Campbell.

1810—33d session, Nathaniel Locke, John Noyes and Ebenezer Wakeley.

1811—34th session, Peter Betts, Joseph Simonds and Thompson Meade.

1812—35th session, Samuel Campbell, Dennison Randall and Silas Holmes.

36th session, an adjourned one.

1814—37th session, Hascal Ransford, James Houghtaling and John Noyes.

1814—35th session, Robert Monell, John Guthrie and Thompson Meade.

1816—39th session, Thomas Brown, Russel Waters and William Monroe.

1816—40th session, James Houghaling, Ebenezer Wakeley and Samuel A. Smith.

1818—41st session, Perez Randall, Simon G. Throop and Tilley Linde.

1819—42d session, Obabiah German, Ebenezer Wakeley and Thomas Humphrey.

1820—43d session, Thomas Humphrey, Samuel A. Smith and Samuel Campbell.

1820—44th session, Edmund G. Per Lee, William Mason and John Tracy.

1822—45th session, Edmund G. Per Lee, William Mason and John Tracy.

1823—46th session, Silas Holmes, Stephen Stilwell and Austin Hyde.

1824—47th session, John Latham, Daniel Root and John F. Hubbard.

1825—48th session, Russel Case, Robert Monell and Charles Medbury.

1826—49th session, John Tracy, Robert Monell and Tilley Linde.

1827—50th session, James Birdsall, Augustus G. Welch and Joseph Juliand.

1828—51st session, Robert Monell, Tilley Lynde and Henry Mitchell.

1829—52d session, Amos A. Franklin, Russel Case and Abel Chandler.

1830—53d session, Charles Squires, John Latham and Jarvis K. Pike.

1831—54th session, Ira Willcox, Joseph Juliand and Jarvis K. Pike.

1832—55th session, Edmund G. Per Lee, Joseph Juliand and Noah Ely.

1833—56th session, Austin Hyde, Abel Chandler and Wm. M. Patterson.

1834—57th session, Milo Hunt, Joseph P. Chamberlin and Wells Wait.

1835—58th session, Hendrick Crain, Henry Crary and Woodward Warren.

1836—59th session, William Knowlton, Nicholas B. Mead and Squire Smith.

1837—60th session, Squire Smith, Isaac Stokes and John F. Hill.

1838—61st session, Demas Hubbard, Jr., Henry Balcom and Justus Parce.

1839—62d session, Demas Hubbard,

Jr., Josiah G. Olney and Samuel Drew.

1840—63d session, Demas Hubbard, Jr., William Church and Samuel Plumb.

1841—64th session, Calvin Cole, Benson H. Wheeler and Eber Dimmick.

1842—65th session, Richard W. Juliand, Clark Burnham and Adam Storing.

1843—66th session, Samuel Medbury, Danforth Wales and Edward Cornell.

1844—67th session, Daniel Noyes, Erastus Dickinson and Reussclaer W. Clark.

1845—68th session, Solomon S. Hall, Charles B. Miller and Joel Burdick.

1846—69th session, Solomon Ensign, Jr., William G. Sands and Hiram E. Storrs.

1847—70th session, Ransom Balcom and David McWhorter.

1848—71st session, Levi H. Case and Ezra P. Church.

1849—72d session, James Clark and Alonzo Johnson.

1850—73d session, Isaac L. F. Cushman and Rufus Chandler.

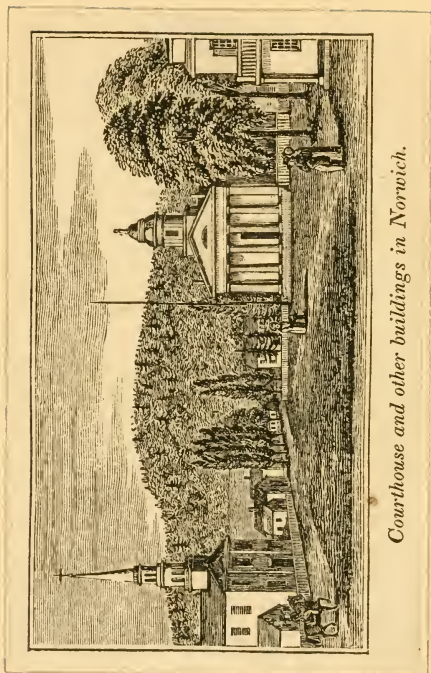
1851—74th session, Laman Ingersoll and Gen. Levi Harris.

In 1826 John C. Clark obtained the certificate and took his seat. But Tilley Linde finally displaced him, and became the member in his place.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Chenango county was organized in the year 1798. But the northern part, or what was known as the Herkimer portion of Chenango, was in one Congressional district, and the southern part known as a parcel of Tioga county, was in another; and the county so continued until the year 1803. In this year the entire county was placed in the same Congressional district. The public are indebted to Messrs. John Tracy and Henry Bennett for the subjoined catalogue of members of the national legislature:

Gen. John Patterson, of Broome county, was the representative from 1803 to 1805.



Courthouse and other buildings in Norwich.

Uri Tracy, of Oxford, in Chenango county, was the representative from 1805 to 1807.

Reuben Humphrey, of Onondaga county, was the representative from 1807 to 1809.

Uri Tracy, of Chenango county, was again representative from 1809 to 1813.

Joel Thompson, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1813 to 1815.

James Birdsall, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1815 to 1817.

John R. Drake, of Tioga county, was the representative from 1817 to 1819.

Robert Monell, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1819 to 1821.

Samuel Campbell, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1821 to 1823.

Lot Clark, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1823 to 1825.

Elias Whittmore, of Broome county, was the representative from 1825 to 1827.

John C. Clark, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1827 to 1829.

Robert Monell, of Chenango county, was again representative from 1829 to 1831.

John A. Collier, of Broome county, was the representative from 1831 to 1833.

Henry Mitchell, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1833 to 1835.

William Mason, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1835 to 1837.

John C. Clark, of Chenango county, was again representative from 1837 to 1839. Mr. Clark was re-elected in 1839, and again chosen in 1841, and retired in 1843, having served six years in succession.

Smith M. Purdy, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1843 to 1845.

Stephen Strong, of Tioga county, was the representative from 1845 to 1847.

Ausburn Birdsall, of Broome county, was the representative from 1847 to 1849.

Henry Bennett, of Chenango county, was the representative from 1849 to 1851. Mr. Bennett was re-elected in 1850 to serve until 1853.

John C. Clark has represented the county eight years in Congress. Judge Uri Tracy six years. Robert Monell four years. Henry Bennett was elected to serve two years after the expiration of his last term. The other members served single terms.

DESCRIPTION OF NORWICH.

On the nineteenth day of January, 1793, the Legislature erected from Union and Jericho, then in the olden county of Tioga, a new town by the name of Norwich. The enactment reads as follows:

"That all that part of the town of Jericho lying east of the Chenango river, and that part of the town of Union lying west of said river, bounded northerly by the north bounds of said county, easterly on the Unadilla river, southerly on the north bounds of a tract of land called Fayette, and the south bounds of townships number thirteen and fourteen, being two of the twenty townships, and westerly on the west bounds of the twenty townships, number twelve and thirteen, be and hereby is erected into a separate town by the name of Norwich."

When this town was first created, it was customary for the inspectors of election to hold town elections in several localities, remaining in a place but a short time, or just long enough to gather in the votes, and then setting out for another neighborhood; thus bringing town meeting directly to each man's door, which was certainly very convenient.—The Legislature authorized the first town meeting to be convened at the dwelling house of Capt. John Harris, who then resided very near the present residence of Doct. Harvey Harris, in Norwich village. The nominator of the town was James Glover, an early resident, who borrowed the name from Nor-

wich in Connecticut; but this cognomen originated from Norwich in England.

The first white pioneer settlement in Norwich, as the town is now appointed, was made by Avery Power and family who immigrated hither in the year 1788, before the Oneida Indians had disposed of their possessions in Chenango, to Gov. George Clinton, as agent for the State, and before they had relinquished possession of their castle. Upon what terms Mr. Power lived among the Indians and cultivated his acres, is at present beyond any information we have been enabled to attain. He undoubtedly paid rent of some description to the savages, as he stood high in their esteem—probably in grain and whiskey. He occupied what was known as the Indian Fields, which were partially cleared off by the natives, but at present most familiarly known as the Col. John Randall farm, about a mile below the corporate limits of Norwich village.—One half nearly of the Power farm is at present owned by Judge Charles York, and lies north of the Randall farm.—The Power farm included one lot, and ran across the Chenango river, cornering on or very near the present residence of Homer Johuson.

Avery Power was in spirit one of the true pioneers of civilization who disrelished compact settlements and avoided all contact with the inconveniences and restraints of a dense population. Hence he best gratified his exclusive predilections by removing his household into these then unsubdued wilds. The reader will bear in mind that the sale of the southern part of the county, including Oxford, had already taken place; so that Mr. Power was northward of the white man's domain and westward of the "property line." That Mr. Power elected to locate himself and family in a country regulated by savage sanctions and a wild justice, where the office of Judge, jury and executioner often reside in the same functionary, argues that this man possessed a hardy, bold and adventurous temper. This is the charac-

ter given him by the early settlers.

We fix the date of Mr. Powers' removal into Chenango early in that year (1788,) by a statement made by him to Mr. John Randall, senior, in the year 1799. In this latter year he informed Mr. Randall that he had then been eleven years a resident of Chenango county. Before the State purchased the "twenty townships," Power was but an intruder on to the land he occupied and had partially reclaimed. But when the government surveyors were detailed hither to run out the twenty townships, Power paid for his farm by boarding and sheltering the government employees. It is reported to us that he carried chain part of the time and performed other minor services for the corps while laying out this part of the twenty towns. His services paid for his land, which was set off to him at three shillings per acre. This farm would now command about one hundred dollars an acre—perhaps a trifle less. Misfortune finally assailed this hardy backwoodsman! He lost three daughters after a brief illness, as we are informed by Mr. Joseph Skinner, now an octogenarian. They were interred upon the present Burlingame farm, on the east side of the river. This, we believe, was the first burial in this part of the county. The grave-yard is still preserved. Difficulties and dangers in the path of this pioneer were resolutely met and overcome, but the loss of three cherished daughters in the space of as many weeks, unnerved for a time the iron soul of the adventurous Power.—Even time did not heal the sorrows of the old man for the loss of his children. His misfortune had already wearied him of the country, and he again longed for a new home in the woods. In the year 1800 he sold his possessions to John Randall, senior, executing a deed of his all. For this grant Mr. Randall paid the liberal sum of four thousand one hundred dollars. The farm contained 286 acres or the whole of lot thirty-nine, and thirty-six acres over. There has been some misapprehension as to the precise date that the government sur-

veyors located this town, but by reference to several ancient deeds, it will be found to have been late in the year 1789 and early in 1790. The reader will remember that minor surveys for patentees were made after this time. Powers' habitation was opened as a kind of inn for the entertainment of whites and savages, but chiefly for the accommodation of the latter. His was the first tavern, as well as the first dwelling house, in Norwich. The site of Power's hut is very near an uninhabited dwelling east of the canal on the present York farm. With the spirit of a true pioneer, fleeing before the genius of civilization and society, wealth and refinement, Power plunged anew into the then impenetrable forests of the western states, where he, doubtless, tarried the remainder of his far spent life isolated from the din of his own caste. Such individuals as Power are middle-men, forming a kind of link between the Indians and whites without really partaking of the nature of either.

The first settlers after Power found their way into this town in the fall or winter of 1790, and spring of 1791.—They were from Connecticut and Massachusetts promiscuously. They came through Albany to the Unadilla river, and followed blazed trees direct to the Power farm and tavern. They crossed streams at fording places and in canoes. A few came by way of Whitestown down the valley. We believe the second white inhabitant in this town was David Fairchild. He settled near what was once Gates' tavern, and very near the south line of the town, and afterwards removed to Preston. He purchased the Terry farm.

Silas Cole is supposed to have been the third comer. He took up what was known afterwards as the Elder Randall and Judge Steere farms. The Cole farm included all the corporate limits of Norwich village lying north of where the Canasewacta creek crosses South Main street, and east of South Main street up to where East street intersects Main street. Mr. Cole became embar-

rassed and finally sold out his farm.—He built the house owned by Judge York, (nearly opposite the residence of Col. John Randall,) for a tavern.—When the first militia muster was advertised for Norwich village, it was understood there would be an unheard-of gathering to witness the display of the military. Anticipating the wants of so large a rally, Mr. Cole spared no expense in fitting up his house and table in a costly manner. At the appointed time far more strangers presented themselves at the muster than had been anticipated. But to the surprise of all and mortification of the inn-keepers, the town swarmed with hucksters, who spread out their edibles in great profusion along the length of the streets, which completely emptied every public house of its guests, leaving landlords to dispose of their provisions as they best could. Mr. Cole was involved by this means some hundreds of dollars, and compelled to sell his magnificent farm. Mr. Cole removed to the State of Ohio, where he died.

William Smiley came into Norwich nearly contemporary with Mr. Cole.—He located the Breed farm, and after partially reclaiming it, sold out to Elias Breed. The Smiley farm included the once famous sulphur spring, which in times past has been a fashionable resort for villagers. The waters were supposed to possess valuable medicinal qualities. By attempted improvements of this spring its vein was finally destroyed.

Nicholas Pickett is supposed to have been the fifth inhabitant of Norwich. He located the Pendleton farm, upon the east side of the Chenango river, occupied a few years, sold out his purchase and removed from this region westward.

The seventh settler was Major Thomas Brooks, a Massachusetts man, compromised by Shays rebellion. His property east was confiscated to the government. He came hither to repair losses. The Major always admitted his participation in the rebellion, and justified it. The Major had also been a soldier in

the revolutionary war, and was at Banker Hill. Major Brooks built a log house on the west green in Norwich village. There was not a hammer nor a nail used about the building. These latter had not then been introduced. Afterwards the Major removed to Plymouth, where he suddenly died by the fall of a tree, about twenty-seven years ago.

Israel, Charles and Matthew Graves were among the early inhabitants of Norwich. The Graves family owned all that part of Norwich village lying west of South Main street, extending so far as the Canasewacta creek where it crosses South Main street on the south and running north so far as the brick law office occupied at present by Geo. M. Smith, Esq. Israel Graves, now arrived at 87 years, is at present enjoying a green old age on Fox river, in the State of Illinois. Charles Graves removed to the State of Ohio, where he died some years ago. Matthew Graves died in Norwich. In addition to the early settlers already enumerated, we may add the names of Josiah Brown, John Wait, Martin Taylor, Joseph Skinner, (now living, and over eighty,) Capt. John Harris, Samuel Hammond, William Ransford, Hascall Ransford, William Ransford, Junior, William Gibson, Simeon and Job Spencer, John Welch, Lemuel Southwick, — Nesler, Col. William Monroe, Leonard Monroe, Lobden Jaynes and Richard Miller. Most of the individuals above named, are no longer alive. The foregoing settled chiefly on or near the present corporation of Norwich. Miss Clara Brooks came into the town when a child with her father Major Brooks, and is believed to be the oldest of the females living who first settled in Norwich. Miss Harriet Graves, afterwards Mrs. Hascall Ransford, removed into this town in the year 1791, and was married July 12, 1792. Hers was the first marriage that took place between settlers in Norwich after their arrival. We are also very credibly informed that it was the first intermarriage between white people

ever consummated south of Whitestown and north of Tioga Point. There was no clergyman to administer the ceremony at the altar nearer than Tioga Point. Neither was there a Justice of the Peace, Judge, or other civic functionary legally qualified to perform the solemnity. To overcome this obstacle it was finally determined by Mr. Ransford to repair to the residence of the clergyman at Tioga Point. For the want of roads in those days the inhabitants traveled up and down the valley in canoes. To undertake so long a journey in boats was at length deemed inexpedient. Finally, Joab Enos, Esq., was sworn in as Justice of the Peace, and officiated at the first wedding in the Chenango valley.

The first clergyman in Norwich was Manasseh French, a practical and unaffected preacher and man, who settled upon the Joseph Brown farm.

The earliest physician was Jonathan Johnson, who removed here from Connecticut about the year 1794. During the vigorous portion of his life he enjoyed a lucrative and at the same time most arduous practice. In the earlier years of his ride, the country was infested with bears, wolves (that hunted in packs,) and with the ferocious panther. More than once the Doctor pursued his lonely rides over the thickly wooded hills, serenaded by moans, howls and screams, proceeding from the midnight orgies of these formidable occupants. — The Doctor surmised, and with truth perhaps, that the contents of his saddlebags striking, agreeably or offensively, upon the olfactories of these lawless tenants of the wilds, was the cause of their frequent company while pursuing his night rides. The Doctor accumulated considerable wealth, but in an unfortunate hour was over-persuaded to adventure it, and lost in trade the hard earnings of a toilsome life. He did not long survive the calamity, but died about the year 1838, regretted by all who best knew his character—its strength and its weakness!

The first male child born in Norwich

was Marcus Cole. The second was Hascall Ransford, late Deputy Sheriff. The first female child born in Norwich was Lucy Power. She was the first white native of the Chenango valley.

We have traced the first proprietors of the land in Norwich village situated on South Main street and running back across the streams in the rear on either side. Col. Monroe took up all that part of the village of Norwich on the west of Main street extending from George L. Rider's north line up so far as the rise of ground in the upper part of the village. Then came the Dickinson farm, which extended to the top of the hill on the west side of North Main street.— Mr. Dickinson came to this village at a later period. On the east side of Main street Judge Steere purchased from Silas Cole, and his land extended back to the river, or nearly as far, and was bounded on the north by Capt. John Harris' farm, which ran up the hill on the east side of North Main street.— North of Capt. Harris, on the same side of North Main street, lay the farm of Samuel Hammond. North of Samuel Hammond lay the Ransford farm extending on both sides of North Main street nearly to the cross road leading to Wood's Corners. It is not important to trace the precise boundary of each of these farms. They were chiefly taken from government in 240 acre lots or parcels.

The Col. Monroe farm (now best known as the Guernsey property,) was purchased by Elisha Smith, who erected upon the west bank of the Canase-wacta creek adjoining the saw mill of William Guernsey and nearly west of the stone mill of the latter, the first flouring mill that was constructed within the present limits of Chenango county. Prior to the erection of this mill the inhabitants either transported part of their grain to Tioga Point, at great expense and endless toil, or they constructed mortars by hollowing out at one end a log from three to four feet in length and constructing a sweep above the mortar with a pestle attached. The

process of pulverizing the grain usually took place at daylight and made no little noise in the settlement while the crushing or pounding process was going on. This incident is well worthy of record, inasmuch as it informs the growing generation how great is the labor of building up a new country! But toil kept our forefathers temperate and healthy. What they lost in luxuries they gained in the enjoyment of good constitutions. At one time the Chenango river was nearly as much navigated as the Chenango canal. Upon one occasion about five hundred Indians fantastically robed and painted, made their appearance wholly unexpected at the residence of Capt. John Harris. They were proceeding in bark canoes to attend a grand council of the several nations to be convened at Tioga Point. Their unexpected advent created surprise and alarm among the settlers before they made known the object of their sudden visit.

When the settlers arrived in Norwich Mr. Cutting owned the town, and was unwilling to sell to settlers in fee simple, but desired to tenant his land after the manner of the Van Rensselaers.— This the immigrants refused to do, and Mr. Cutting was obstinate in the matter. At length there was a proposition made to the settlers to remove to Whitestown, which was only prevented by the purchase of the town from Mr. Cutting by Melancthon Smith and John Stites.— Mr. Smith came on and reconciled differences by giving contracts for deeds (absolute,) of the soil. We believe a serious collision occurred between Col. Monroe and Mr. Cutting relative to the purchase of a farm, which resulted in the purchase by the Colonel over the Plymouth line. At page twenty-eight it is stated that Mr. Cutting bought Norwich in the absence of Capt. Harris.— We are advised by Doct. Harvey Harris, that his father (the Capt.,) was present, but the land was sold above what he was authorized to bid. The Doctor also assures us that Mr. Smith bought out Mr. Cutting owing to the difficulties Cutting was getting into with the set-

blers. That this was before the death of Cutting some time.

Perhaps no citizen was so closely identified in his life-time with the early growth and prosperity of the village of Norwich as Peter B. Guernsey. Himself and his heirs after him have been extensive land owners in the heart of the village. Mr. Guernsey was a lawyer by profession, but early relinquished this calling for active business pursuits. The characteristics of Mr. Guernsey's mind were strong natural sense and untiring perseverance under difficulties that never intermitted. He was one of the many early settlers who literally died in harness.

We will remark that Norwich village was incorporated as early as 1790. Since that time several accommodations have been made to the village growth. In the spring of 1851 the village trustees named all the streets, which numbered twenty-two. There is upon the village corporation two flouring mills, a steam saw-mill, two tanneries, an iron foundry, an extensive hammer and edge tool manufactory, employing in the neighborhood of thirty operatives. Also several extensive carriage manufactories, besides an oil mill, iron and brass sash and window blind factory, cabinet shops, cooper shops, etc. etc. etc.

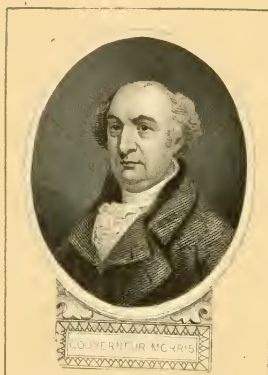
The first town meeting was convened at the house of Capt. John Harris. Afterwards town meeting was held at the house of Haswell Ransford, senior, situated about a mile above the village of Norwich. Mr. Ransford for many years kept tavern, and his house was extensively patronized. We believe in these days the mail was carried weekly on foot north. We are informed by Mr. Truman Enos that the chief of the engineer corps, who ran out the twenty townships including Norwich, was Col. Josiah Throop, of Johnstown, Fulton county, in this State.

CHENANGO CANAL

The antiquity of canals is very great, running back so far as six hundred years before the time of the Christian era.—

The "Red Sea and Nil Canal," intersecting the Isthmus of Suez, was begun by the Kings of Egypt, and continued by Darius the Great, but was afterwards abandoned from want of circulating a great part of the capital, which was thought to be low. It was then abandoned. The work was, however, resumed and completed near a century afterwards—about five hundred and twenty years before Christ, by Ptolemy II. To prevent an overflow from the sea upon Egypt, barriers or banks were erected for rushing across the canal, and boats were taken across these barriers on inclined planes. This is the origin of the passage by these barriers. Another is that all the boats loaded with cargo at the barriers, no craft passing over them. Then on the transportation of a boat over the barriers, it was put on rollers of vessels and thus forwarded to its destination. According to Strabo, the canal was one hundred cubits wide, and of sufficient depth for large vessels. Its entire length consumed four days in passing over it. As this canal was made by embanking rather than by excavating, the width was not subject to very great consideration; so the first in constructing a spacious channel would not be materially larger than the cost of a narrow one.

The Chinese have probably the most extensive inland canal navigation of any nation in the world. Some put down the canal of China as exceeding in number and length all others in any part of the habitable globe. The country through which these canals pass is undulating in many parts, causing the canals to be built upon different levels.—To pass from one level to another the Chinese do not employ the ordinary locks as used on the canals in this country; but they draw them out of the water or move them on inclined planes, employing for this purpose not machines, but men. The ascent and descent at some of these planes is fifteen feet.—The Chinese also employ their canals for irrigating the soil and supplying towns with water. The Imperial canal of China is said to be five hundred



miles in length and carries one thousand boats at one hundred tons burden each. It is called the "Frigate Canal" because it was built for the Frigate's boat to navigate in.

Canal of Italy.—In ancient Italy, besides the canal of the Pontine marshes, intended as a drain and road also for navigation, the canal about the Po was interesting to the Romans, because of its communication with the Euxine, through Phœnicia and numerous other canals. It was in Italy that the great improvement in modern canals over the ancient and over those of China was first introduced in the year 1499, by the construction of locks and sluices to raise boats from one level to another. Locks of various kinds as now used, were invented by two brothers, engineers of Venice.

Their names have now been forgotten down. This improvement in the art of canalizing was soon adopted by the Milanese Territory, under the patronage of the great painter and celebrated engineer, Leonardo da Vinci. The Milan government early made great attention to inland navigation, and several regulations concerning it have been promulgating numerous measures for the construction of locks and the art of building and maintaining canals.

Peter the Great began to dig in Russia. During the reign of this prince into Asia, in order to make it more useful or their might used to invade the Russian Empire, he required constant and vigilant observation of Persia. At one time he visited the river Volga in disguise as the ambassador of Scotland. It was in Hall's Bay, where he observed the utility of canals from his return home for commerce. He conceived but one of these canals, that connecting the Caspian and Baltic Seas.

The canal of Holland began the first, marshy country, at every distance, serving for navigation in summer and roads of ice in winter. The canals are constructed generally several feet higher than the surrounding plains over which they pass. The flat lands are drained by pumping the water up into the canals, for which purpose numerous

wind-mills are dispersed about the country and kept in active operation.

Spain, with the control for ages of the most profitable gold, silver and quick silver mines in the world, is in canals, as in every other species of enterprise, behind all other civilized nations. In 1829 she had but the canal of Arragon, and this was only partially completed.

The canal navigation in France in 1830 was nine hundred miles, or about one third part of that of Great Britain.—In 1607, Henry IV. began and completed his great canal, and ten years afterwards the canal of Languedoc, designed to connect the Garonne and Seine. It is sometimes called the Loire and Seine canal, from the junction of the two rivers. This canal cost nearly as much as the Erie canal in this State. The French, notwithstanding they have been so long in the canal business, have at present more canals in the same country, except perhaps in the United States.

Canals of the United States.—The history of canal navigation does not extend far back. Excavations for canals have been made since the year 1810. The Erie canal was the first of importance completed. In the completion of this canal the river was cleared out and rendered partially navigable for light boats. The Erie canal was completed under the supervision of De Witt Clinton. It was carried to completion by his untiring efforts, at the hazard of his popularity. He is then justly considered, as well he is in all time, as the author of the Erie canal. But other claimants there are, and some have written pamphlets to prove themselves the originators of the idea of the practicability of connecting the Hudson River with Lake Erie, and thereby giving the western water communication with New York City and the Atlantic Ocean.—Among these claimants may be named Governor Morris, who died in 1816, and Jesse Hawley, who died about 1813, at Lockport. In one of his publications Mr. Hawley remarked: "Con-

sidering myself as being the projector of the overland route of the Erie canal, &c. &c."

We now come to speak of the Chenango canal, so far back as we are enabled to go, from what information we at present are possessed of. Soon after the works on the Erie canal were undertaken, the citizens of the Chenango valley suggested expedients for forming a canal junction with the new canal at some point north. We believe, however, that the present canal was not tho't of so far down as the year 1823. In November of that year the Oxford Gazette held forth this language in relation to connecting the valley with the Erie canal. The Gazette said:

"Few counties can approach the Erie canal with so much ease and facility as Chenango, that are situated so far from it. We may therefore justly consider Chenango as destined, at some future period, to become an important branch of that vast inland navigation which secures to New York a proud pre-eminence among the States of the Union. The Chenango river can be made boatable to its source, and by a short canal, the expense of which would be comparatively trifling, may be united with the waters of the Oneida creek, which leads directly into the Erie canal. This has been pronounced by competent judges practicable and safe; and at no distant day will engage the attention of our enterprising citizens."

Judge Elisha Smith, in his life-time, was an early and able advocate for the canal. We understand the judge's plan was to navigate the Chenango river in part. It was about the year 1824 that public opinion began to shape itself in favor of the canal, as now constructed. It was in this year a petition of citizens was forwarded to John F. Hubbard, a member of the Assembly from Chenango. Mr. Hubbard presented the appeal to the Legislature; a report in favor of the canal was made, but not acted on. The first act for the construction of the canal was passed in the year 1829.—This act required the Canal Commis-

sioners to make a survey of the route and to commence the work, if upon examination of the route it was certain there was an adequate supply of water; also that the cost of construction would not exceed one million of dollars. Further that the work when completed would produce to the State in connection with the increased tolls on the Erie canal, for the first ten years after its construction an amount of tolls equal to the interest upon its cost, together with repairs and expense of attendance. The Canal Commissioners were directed by this act in the event of a negative conclusion upon any of the three propositions, to report to the next Legislature their surveys and estimates.

After examinations the Commissioners were convinced that the canal could not be constructed on the route proposed within the purview of the act of 1829. They accordingly made an elaborate report in 1830 to the Legislature. This report is an able document and contains much useful information. But previous to the law of 1829, the citizens of the Chenango valley, at their private expense, in the year 1826, employed an engineer by the name of ——— Jones, then resident at Utica, to run out a route for a canal through this valley to connect with the Erie canal, and to make estimates of the cost of its construction. While discharging the duties of his trust, Mr. Jones (who was a brother of Anson Jones, the last President of Texas,) was taken suddenly ill at Norwich village, and died there before he had completed his survey.

The Commissioners, under the law of 1829, reported that from Utica to the summit level of the canal in Madison county, a distance of twenty-three miles, there would be required seventy-eight locks and as many levels, forming in the aggregate an elevation of 702 feet. The depth of cutting on the summit level, which extends three miles, was something over twenty feet. From the southern termination of this level the canal they reported, enters the valley of the Chenango river and follows the general

course of that stream to Binghamton, a distance of sixty-nine miles. From the southern extremity of the summit level to the last mentioned place there is a fall of 307 feet, requiring thirty-six lift locks. The whole length of the canal is ninety-five miles; the rise and fall 1,009 feet, and the entire number of lift locks one hundred and fourteen. The Commissioners estimated the actual cost of constructing the canal, as it is now built, exclusive of damages to individuals, at the sum of nine hundred and ninety-two thousand three hundred and seven dollars.

The remarks of the Commissioners so well illustrate the nature of the country through which the canal passes, that we will cite a few of them. They say: "In the southern part of the valley of Chenango, the hills in several places terminate on the edge of the river with such precipitous banks as to render it necessary to construct the canal in the bed of the stream for a considerable extent, and in other cases the excavation of bluffs and rocky points will be unavoidable. On the northerly part of the route, the deep cutting on the summit, and the rock which must be encountered in Cassity Hollow and at Hart's Mill on the Oriskany, constitute the principal difficulties which are visible in the excavation. Most of the remainder of the line is located on the alluvial ground bordering the streams, composed of light loam, sand and gravel, which is easy to excavate."

"Canals on such ground, however, although cheaply excavated, do not always prove the least expensive. They require (where the soil is most porous,) a lining with more impervious earth, in order to retain water for the purposes of navigation, and to prevent the flooding of adjacent lands. Embankments formed of light and loose materials, must be made much broader and larger, and require more protection from the abrasion of water, and the force of torrents, than if formed of compact earth."

"The southern part of the Oriskany valley and the whole valley of the Che-

nango are bounded by lofty hills; at the foot of these hills, and in many places on the very edge of their acclivities, the canal has been unavoidably located. In these situations it will be exposed to the torrents which collect on the long upland slopes, and which gathering force in their descent will sweep away embankments or other opposing works, unless their destructive effects are avoided by the construction of many spacious culverts and waste weirs. We noticed the wide and dry beds of several of the streams, composed of masses of stones and gravel brought from the hills. The shifting of their courses and their deposits, from time to time, has covered and constituted the flat lands in many near their mouths to a very great extent. Whenever a canal is located on ground so entirely porous as this, it must be formed with a thick lining on the bottom and sides with impervious earth."

The Commissioners, in this report, also trace a close resemblance in the nature of the soil and of the hills, between the Mohawk and Chenango valleys. They then remark: "In the Mohawk valley we have expended in culverts, waste weirs, lining, puddling and back draining, ten times as much as the engineer estimated to be necessary in the same kind of work on the Chenango canal." The Commissioners reported to the Legislature, that the Chenango canal would not pay for its construction unless it performed as large a carrying business as the Erie canal for the same distance; which was utterly impossible from the relative nature of the two lines of canal.

The Commissioners next made an elaborate calculation of the exports and imports of the country through which the contemplated canal was to pass. They estimated the exports of agricultural products at 17,513 tons, and the imports at 4,401 tons only. But they exclude in this estimate the exports and imports of lumber, salt, lime, gypsum and ashes.—The Commissioners estimated the number of the population to be benefitted by the canal and who would use it, at 85,304.

The Canal Commissioners concluded their report conformably to the conclusion of the Commissioners. We are the subscribers of the report of their own kind here.

"In regard to several questions submitted to my consideration by the law of 1829, and which must be determined affirmatively, before we can proceed to the construction of the Chenango canal, we are of opinion—

"First, on the question of water—that an adequate supply of water may be procured by a resort to reservoirs for the summer level without taking any of the waters of either Oriskany or Seneca creek."

"Secondly, in regard to its cost—that it will exceed one million of dollars." (Its construction was limited to this sum.)

"Thirdly and lastly; in regard to its revenue, that it will not produce an amount of tolls, in connection with the increased tolls on the Erie canal, that will be equal to the interest of its cost and the expense of its repairs and superintendence, or of either of them."

Signed,

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER,
SAMUEL YOUNG,
HENRY SEYMOUR,
WILLIAM C. BOBCK.

January 21st, 1830.

As the Commissioners reported their inability to construct the canal according to the terms of the act of 1829, the project was on the coming in of this report indefinitely postponed. Our next task will be to explain how this dead canal was resuscitated, and by whose agency, chiefly, it was finally carried through to completion.

We shall, at the hazard of contradiction, give whatever of praise or blame attaches to the canal the credit of the law of 1833, authorizing the construction of the canal to John F. Hubbard, then a Senator from the sixth district. Others lent willing and efficient aid to the undertaking, and to the enactment of the law. But it was Mr. Hubbard who

almost alone in the Senate for years drew out strong, vigorous and telling arguments in favor of the immediate completion of the Chenango canal.—Mr. Hubbard himself, removed from the exciting scenes of public life, claims no this merit. But the people, whom for so many long and trying years he faithfully served, we think will never be guilty of so great ingratitude as to suffer his meritorious services in the Senate to sink into oblivion. Mr. Hubbard was placed in situations most trying to the feelings of the politician! He was forced by the exigency of the times to differ with his most cherished party friends. He assumed not to perform this moral but painful duty. In the year 1831, one year after the coming in of the Canal Commissioners estimates and reports adverse to the canal, he as one of the committee on canals, in relation to the Chenango canal, reported adverse to the views of Messrs. Bobck and Young, and their associates. He employed statistics to prove their report erroneous in his conclusions as well as the facts upon which it was predicated. We will give brief extracts from the report of Mr. Hubbard. He said:

"The people of New York, guided by a wise and liberal ambition to promote the general interest, were the first to commence an ample expenditure for internal improvements. The Erie and Champlain canals, those great and splendid works which have earned prosperity and wealth to the remotest sections of the State, are the rich fruit of their benign and magnanimous policy. Justly entitled for the wealth of the citizen as the wealth of the State, the Legislature determined by constructing canals and thus affording an easy and cheap communication between the interior and our commercial cities to excite the enterprise and industry of our farmers and increase our population by holding out a rich inducement to settlement and cultivation of our vacant lands. The result has verified their most sanguine anticipations. The canals have induced a rapidity of settlement and a consequent



Yours affecly
Mansfield



increase of population and wealth unheard of in the previous history of the country." He continued:

"Before entering upon the discussion of the propriety of constructing the Chenango canal, it is proper to give a short account of its progress. In 1824 the inhabitants of the Chenango valley petitioned the Legislature for a survey.—The canal committee of that year reported favorably, but it was not acted on, as the session was drawing to a close. In 1825 a law of the State authorized a survey; and in 1826 a petition was presented for its construction, and the canal committee of the Assembly made a favorable report; but the House thinking that the survey had not been sufficiently minute and accurate, rejected the bill. During the summer of 1826 the inhabitants procured another survey of the summit level, and at the session of 1827 a bill passed the Assembly, but was rejected in the Senate. During the summer of 1827 another survey of the summit and the whole line was procured by the citizens at a great expense. Mr. Roberts, an able engineer, was employed; and he came to the conclusion that there was a sufficient supply of water for the summit level; and that the canal could be constructed for less than one million of dollars. This opinion was concurred in by Mr. Hutchinson, who carefully examined the estimates, and by Mr. Wright, who personally reviewed the whole line."

"In 1828 a bill for its construction again passed the Assembly, and was a second time rejected in the Senate.—The application was renewed in 1829, but the objection was raised, that the State could not safely proceed under a survey which was not authorized by the Legislature; and a bill was passed authorizing its construction, if it could be made for a million of dollars, if there was a sufficiency of water, if it would yield when constructed a revenue for ten years including the increase of tolls on the Erie canal equal to the cost of repairs and the interest of the money to be borrowed."

Mr. Hubbard reviews the report and conclusions of the Canal Commissioners very favorably, and adds:

"The Canal Commissioners do not deny that there is a sufficiency of water, but express an opinion that the work will cost more than a million of dollars; but how much more they do not inform us, nor have they given us any estimates. Their opinion was expressed from a slight examination of only five days; and it stands opposed not only by the result of the laborious examinations of Mr. Eddy, but by the opinions of Messrs. Wright and Roberts, whose ability and experience will not be questioned."

"It is," said Mr. Hubbard, "contended by the citizens residing upon the route that the country is fertile and capable, with the advantages of a cheap transportation to market, of furnishing an amount of tonnage equal to that of any other section of the State, containing the same population. This position is strengthened by the fact that the census of 1825, so far as it gave the production of the several counties, showed that the region to be benefitted by the Chenango canal was not inferior to the most fertile sections. Population still increases, and villages are constantly springing up, giving evidence both of the enterprise of the people and the productiveness of the soil," etc.

The Commissioners insisted that the most profitable tonnage carried on the Erie canal was wheat and flour; that this grain was not grown in the Chenango valley for exportation in any considerable quantities. Mr. Hubbard replied to this that, not conceding the assertion of the Commissioners to be wholly true; yet, if true as to wheat raising, still it determined nothing against the construction of or tonnage on the canal. "For labor which is diverted into growing one description of products in one section, may be applied in furnishing a different description in another. Population, therefore, may afford a safer criterion by which to judge of the amount of revenue to be derived from a canal."

The report of Mr. Hubbard concludes thus: "It is one of the duties of government to encourage industry and enterprise, call forth the resources and promote the permanent interests of the State, by facilitating commercial intercourse, when it can be done without levying oppressive and burdensome taxes."

Whether the construction of the Chenango canal did facilitate commercial intercourse, whether it did not give an impetus to population, manufactures, the arts and to agriculture, throughout the valley of the Chenango! This interrogatory we leave for the farmer, the mechanic and the merchant to answer. Before a response be given let all remember what was the condition of the home market before and after the completion of the canal; what was the price of land and farming stock; what the rewards of labor; what the price of merchandize!

On the 23d of February, 1833, an act passed the Legislature to make a canal from Utica to Binghamton, ninety-seven miles in length. No conditions were imposed by this act. The work was commenced in 1833 and completed in 1837, at a cost of one million seven hundred and thirty-seven thousand seven hundred and three dollars. There are one hundred and sixteen lift locks, two of which only are built of stone. The other one hundred and fourteen are built of wood and stone, called composite. The canal had, on its completion, seven reservoirs consisting of natural ponds, having their original capacity increased by embankments and dams furnished with flumes and gates to regulate the discharge of water.

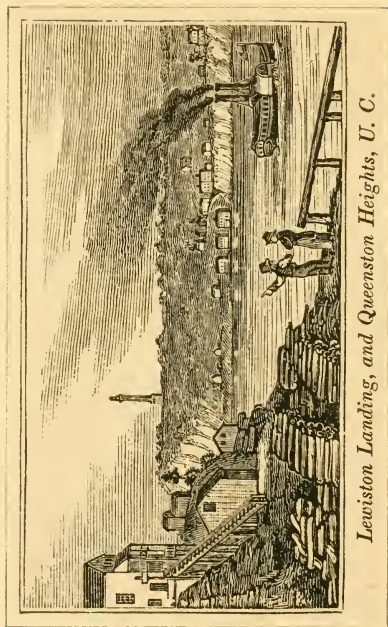
When the bill of 1833 became a law there were great rejoicings throughout this valley. In Norwich a grand celebration and canal festival was got up by the citizens at the county seat. As some of the readers of the history think the account of the Court House

celebration was considerably inflated or overcharged, we forbear giving a separate description of what occurred at the canal celebration; but shall rather point our friends back to the account of that festival, and whatever they find of extravagance in what was there said, they may apply to the canal holyday. We think our account of the Court House ceremonies are broad enough to cover both occasions.

It is true the cost of the canal almost doubled the original estimates; but what of that? In the end it has enriched all southern New York and given an impetus to enterprise in the Chenango valley, which would never have been attained without it. The canalizing undertakings in the State of New York, begun by Clinton, were the forerunners of steamboats and railroads on this continent.

Some writer has said: "The general utility or public expediency of works of internal improvement are not to be determined wholly by the amount of annual tolls they will probably yield; but it is necessary to look at the indirect advantages, such as the increased value of land along the borders of the works, the increased profits of other works connected with or affected by the ones proposed." Judging the Chenango canal by this standard we can safely affirm the aggregate of wealth along its borders has been infinitely increased by its construction.—Mr. E. B. McCall, surveyor and engineer, resident at Oxford, was an early and active participant in the construction of the Chenango canal. We are most credibly informed he once made a survey of the whole line of the present canal, and that the levels run out by him were found to be mathematically correct, when the work was completed.

The Chenango canal was built after the model of the Erie canal; its main trunk is forty feet wide at the water line and twenty-eight feet at the bot-



Lewiston Landing, and Queenston Heights, U. C.



ed the command of the invading army. His forces consisted of three hundred and fifty regulars, besides two hundred and fifty volunteers under Col. Shuman and Bacde, and Gen. Wadsworth; making a total of six hundred combatant men. Gen. Chas. Randall, seeing the dangerous position of his company, hastily beat up for volunteers to drive the savages and to take shelter in their secure retreat. The charge succeeded in putting the red men to flight, with some loss to the Indians. After they were driven, Col. Meade's men had a few hours of repose, before the closing scene of this protracted contest finally came on. We had the last attack upon the Americans described by Mr. Adams-field, thus:

"In this manner successive conflicts were kept up, until the main body of the reinforcements from Fort George arrived. This consisted of a column eight hundred and fifty strong, under the command of Maj. Gen. Sheaffe. During the action, which had now so long proceeded with credit to the American troops, the militia who had crossed the river, and were engaged under Gen. Wadsworth and Col. Stranahan had us to the part which the Norwich regiment acted in this bloody drama.

On the morning of the 13th, the day the battle was fought, at early dawn, one hundred of the regiment took to the boats and crossed from Lewisston to Queensstown. Col. Thompson Meade, Capt. Bacon, Wadsworth and Koot, Lt. Chas. Randall and John Fields were ferrying them. On their way across the river they met Col. Van Kenseelaer returning in a boat badly wounded. A speedy landing in good order was effected and the men formed and ascended the mountain, taking position in open field on its apex. The immediate station of this body was a few rods to the south of Gen. Brock's monument on the heights, and only about thirty rods from the line of the Indians secured behind forest trees and a heavy rail fence. Col. Meade was repeatedly fired upon while passing to and fro, giving orders to the men. Sergeant Mann, of the Colonel's troops, was shot standing by the side of

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as hopeless as success; for there were less than three hundred. Retreat was

others severely wounded. At the commencement of the battle the combatants on either side were few. The British force, posted on the heights and around them, consisted of two flank companies of the 49th regiment and the York militia. The Americans did not number much over one hundred soldiers. Gen. Van Rensselaer was forming these troops on the shore of the river, when he was struck down by several shots. In the face of a most destructive fire his officers rallied and formed the men; but they, too, were simultaneously either killed or severely wounded. As other officers arrived Col. Van Rensselaer imparted some local information to them respecting the storming of the heights. His last orders, after he had been four times wounded, were that "all such as could move should immediately mount the hill and carry the British battery. — Capt. (now Gen.) Wool, and others, promptly obeyed the order by carrying the position and completely routing the enemy, whom they forced to retire, in disorder, into a strong stone building near the water's edge.

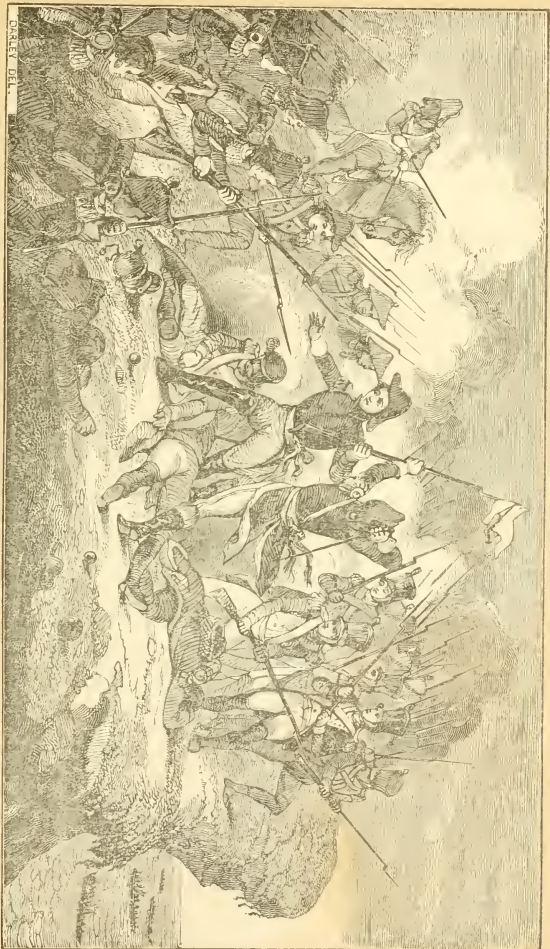
"Here the fugitives were rallied and succored by Gen. Brock, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, who had returned from the capture of Gen. Hull, to defend the Niagara frontier. Here was the last act of his gallantry. He fell at the head of the troops he was leading to the charge, and with him his Secretary—Col. McDonald. The British troops were again dispersed, and there was a pause in the action. But the interval of rest was short.

"The first gun, which broke the silence of the morning, had also roused the British garrisons at Fort George, eight miles below the battle-field. These troops were instantly put in motion.—The Indians, who had concentrated in the neighborhood, sprung into activity. In a short time five hundred of these forest warriors joined the British light companies previously engaged."

At the stage of the battle, when Gen. Brock fell, Col. (now Gen.) Scott came upon the field as a volunteer, and received

reperse which resulted in the capture of the "Adams" and "Caledonia" on the 26th of that month, had given such apparent ardor and impulse to these troops that it was believed impossible to restrain them. . . . According to the plan of the battle on Queensstown Heights. . . . The object of the movement was to dispose the enemy from the fort and village of Queensstown Heights, and thus to make a lodgment for the American troops on the Canada shore, the invasion of Canada being then the leading object of the northern campaign. The plan was to throw over the river two columns of troops, each about three hundred strong. One was commanded by Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, and the other by Lieutenant Colonel Christie. The detachments of Fenwick and Mullaney were to sustain these columns in the best way they could. These arrangements were made on the 12th of October. Late in the evening of that day Colonel (now General) Scott had arrived, by a forced march, partly by water and partly through mud and rain at Schlosser, eight miles above Lewis-ton, with a view of joining in the attack. He hastened to Lewiston in person and volunteered his services. They were declined on account of the arrangements already made; with permission, however, to Col. Scott to bring his regiment immediately to Lewiston and there act as circumstances might require. At 4 o'clock, A. M., on the 13th he brought his regiment on to the ground. . . . In the meantime the principal movement, as originally planned, had gone on. All the boats which could be collected were employed to transport the columns of Christie and Van Rensselaer. Unfortunately the boats were insufficient to take the whole number at once, and the passage was made by detachments."

"Col. Van Rensselaer landed, but before he had formed his men, was dangerously wounded in several places.—About the same moment every commissioned and non-commissioned officer who had crossed the river with him were also struck down; some killed,



DARLEY DEL.

Battle of Queenstown.





James Mellon



citizens had not forgotten the embargo of 1807, and the non-intercourse act of 1808. On the 18th of June, 1812, Mr. Madison, (who was in feeling a peace President,) with melancholy forebodings for the rivers of blood that were soon to flow, laid his war message before Congress, which was acted on the same day; this action placed the two countries in hostile array. It was not long, alone, that the United States were called upon to instruct what our just rights were, and to what extremities they would be defended; but France herself, on many different occasions, had likewise shown an aggressive disposition in common with England.

After our armies had taken the field under Gen. Hull, and advanced into the Canadian country, inspiring high hopes of success on every hand, some mysterious agency operating on the mind of that commander, so deluded him that he ingloriously surrendered up his brave troops without the show of any defence whatever.

It cannot be necessary for us to particularize the stunning effects of such a blow delivered full in the face of our national pride. After that defeat and disgrace, every citizen, whatever his private or political opinion upon the origin and necessity of the war, after that he felt it a duty to take arms, to be laid down only when the exulting foe was bumbled.

This feeling particularly pervaded Chenango. Her citizens, descended from the men of seventy-six, and the most active of them too, although themselves untutored in the art of war, waited only for a call. They freely mustered to march to the frontier, and prepared to march to this rendezvous at Norwich village on the 8th of September, 1812. On the 20th of the same month, having first chosen Thompson Meade (Lieutenant Colonel,) commander of their regiment, they received marching orders. The whole force, including the troops from other counties, numbered four hundred men, rank and file.

About half of the regiment were res-

dents of Chenango. The other companies came from Broome and Tioga counties, John Kandall, of Norwich, was Major of the regiment, and ——— Clark, 2d. Major. Judge John Noyes, of Norwich, was the Adjutant. Asa Norton, of the same place, was Quarter Master. The Chenango Captains were Heuben Gray, of Sherburne, Nathan Taylor, of South New Berlin, Thornton Wasson, of Guilford, and Daniel Root, of Pitcher. The Broome county Captains were ——— Bacon and ——— Seymour. The Tioga Captains were Solomon Smith and ——— Williams. There were eight Captains.

Among the Lieutenants who did most efficient service on the field of battle may be mentioned Charles Kandall, who served under Capt. Gray, an John Fields, who had once been in the British service. The troops marched for Buffalo via. Sherburne, Log City, Cazenovia, Onondaga, Cayuga Bridge, Canandaigua and Batavia, and arrived early in October. Part of the way they marched in company with Col. Stranahan's men. The next day after their arrival the men marched down the Niagara river and took position on the American side of the stream, opposite Queensstown Heights.

We have now traced the troops to a point where they afterwards fought a sanguinary battle. Before giving the further movements of this regiment, we will trace out the preliminaries of the contest, after which we will introduce the reader to the scenes in which some of Col. Meade's corps took a very decided part. In doing so, we will extract from Mansfield's Life of Scott. He says:—"On the morning of the 9th of October, 1812, the Americans by a desperate effort cut out two armed brigades, then lying at anchor under the guns of Fort Erie. They were the Adams and the Caledonia. . . . In the beginning of October, of this year, Major General Van Rensselaer had collected together at Lewiston (opposite Queensstown Heights,) about two thousand five hundred of the New York militia. The successful en-

We are advised by Mr. Samuel R. Per Lee, a forwarding and commission merchant of Norwich, that the tolls on the Chenango canal are now graduated after the rates charged for transportation on the Erie canal. Mr. Per Lee also further informs us that the income arising from the canal does not defray the expense of repairs and interest of its cost.

WAR OF 1812.

Chenango county was represented on the battle-field during the continuance of this sanguinary contest. It is therefore proper to introduce in this part of the history a short account of the war, sometimes denominated the "last war," to distinguish it from the war of the Revolution; but oftener called and chiefly known as the "war of 1812."

The English people from the close of the Revolution down to this memorable year, at most times, exhibited an indisposition to recognize the just claims of the United States to a position among the sovereign nations of the world. As early as the year 1810, and afterwards, it was very apparent that nothing short of a second contest with England could completely establish the freedom achieved in 1783. That a second war was inevitable became early obvious, from the unwarrantable interference with American commerce, exercised, in competition with England, on every sea.—The war of the Revolution was strictly defensive, and consisted chiefly of ambuscades, precipitate retreats and as precipitate rallies. It became necessary, therefore, to convince that nation of the ability of the United States to wage aggressive as well as defensive war in maintenance of their national honor.—By unanimous for a declaration of hostility, Chenango was second to no county or section in the general enthusiasm for measuring strength, once more, with the ancient foe and common enemy. The

next year (1834) the speculating *de mentia* overcame the country, and suddenly producers became consumers.—Money also cheapened, while the prices of labor and produce advanced. We have heard Mr. Buell, an experienced canalist, say he lost on what he at first considered a paying job, over three thousand dollars. When the Erie canal enlargement contracts were taken, wages and provisions were at the highest rates. Estimates were accordingly made and contracts entered into with reference to a continuance of inflated prices. Very soon afterwards both sank below the natural level in the universal reaction that took place throughout the country. Contractors profited by these changes, and some who had suffered severely on the Chenango canal, made hasty fortunes on the Erie works.

The laborers on this canal were chiefly the same who have worked all water-courses in this country: they were Irish. After the work was completed, very few remained in the valley, or became residents.

William H. Maynard, the Senator, was always a true friend to this section. About the year 1832, when railroads came into use, he had many thoughts of changing the proposed canal into a road of this description: the latter being in his opinion more conducive to the welfare of the valley. But in August of the last named year, this highly gifted man and most efficient advocate for the best interests of Chenango, was suddenly cut down in the meridian of his days, in the midst of his usefulness, and in the multiplicity of his labors.

Of late years many speculations have been put about as to the propriety of using the canal for propelling machinery and building a railroad track upon the towing path. At present this plan seems too chimerical for practical men; yet, in a revolutionary era, few or none can foreknow what changes time will not accomplish. The canal already furnishes numerous eligible mill-sites, and every year more of them are coming into use.

the Commissioner. Indeed a vigilant competition sprang up in various parts of the town, to prevent the ditch from being dug elsewhere than across the greens opposite to the Court House. If this project had carried, the village would ever after have presented to the eye of travelers a hideous deformity. — Finally it was pretty much determined to conduct the water across Main street, a few rods below the greens. To prevent this one citizen offered, and we believe gave, two hundred dollars to keep it at a distance. Then it was proposed to make a cut across Main street, a few rods still lower down; and here the canal was finally built. One citizen contributed about two hundred dollars to have the canal pass his dwelling house. It did so, and a bridge was built with an embankment almost as high as the second story window of his tenement. The value of the house and lot was pretty much ruined by the canal, leaving behind the two hundred dollars for the owner to pay for the imaginary benefits the canal was to confer. The State, who never was a hard creditor in the case of signers for the canal, finally forgave this debt. In order to bring the water across Main street, it was necessary to turn the canal from its natural north and south direction, and also from a straight line, and run it due west for the space of several hundred yards, when it was again directed southward. The water courses through Northward, which flow to the south. Where the canal turns to the west, the soil is very light and loose earth formed very imperfectly by the operation of time, sufficient to puddle. All were rejoiced when the time for filling the ditch had arrived. But no sooner was the water turned in, than all the cellars and wells south of the canal were filled to their utmost capacity with water that had filtered its way through the open, gravelly banks. A great lamentation, relieved by considerable wagging, followed. Some who proposed to establish ferries in the cellars most afflicted, to ply daily between the entrance and the pork barrels, touching on each voyage at the potato bins. One of the unfortunates is said that Gov. Bouch had better at once have made the canal in a basket. It was also proposed to establish permanent ferries between different sections of the same farm. But as that class of tribulation, vexation and universal annoyance has finally passed away, we may now look back with a smile; yet, at the time of the occurrence it was a serious misfortune to the citizens, besides entailing a severe loss upon the farmers along the route. We see by recent accounts, the good people of Rome are suffering in the same way (but nothing approaching to the same extent that our villagers formerly did), by leakage from the Black River Canal.

When the canal was being excavated, some of the citizens in the village proposed a side-cut from the main ditch to terminate in a basin near Main street. The current was carried, and furnished another most abundant supply of canal water for wells lying immediately south of this side-cut and basin. As neither the cut nor the basin had any outlet, and as the water must be exposed to some agitation to keep it pure, the citizens living in the vicinity of the basin soon discovered that they were drinking a beverage that had far more substance and body to it than the soft crystal liquid hitherto flowing into the wells from springs. The water in this pond or basin stagnates in summer, and, but for our short season of warm weather, would be a fruitful source of intermittent fevers. The basin was constructed at a cost to the projectors, who subscribed very liberally, of between twelve and thirteen hundred dollars. The advantages resulting from it have proved wholly inadequate to the expense of its construction.

The building of the canal did not prove as profitable to contractors as jobs on the other canals in the State. The work was undertaken when wages and provisions were low in market. The

along the line of the Erie canal, especially those residing in Utica, were very desirous to have it terminate at several particular points. The inhabitants of Utica finally signed a bond to help defray the extra expense of constructing the canal to that city. The bond was conditioned to pay the sum of forty thousand dollars. The Common Council, in 1837, petitioned the Legislature to suspend the collection of this bond for a few months. In some of the valley towns the citizens were desirous the canal should pass as nearly through the center of the villages as possible. At Sherburne village money was subscribed to defray the additional cost of constructing the work through that village. We are advised that the signers to this bond were afterwards excused from payment of their subscriptions.—The most excitement, relative to the line of the canal, took place in the village of Norwich. This village is built in a basin, surrounded on every side by hills, excepting two narrow avenues through which the Chenango river enters and passes off southward. The main street in the village is about one mile and a third in extent. The east and west street, running at right angles across the main street, about the center part of it, is nearly the same length.—These streets, from their junction or point of traverse, present one of the most perfect and delightful landscape views in southern New York. When the engineers passed through Norwich, they located the canal nearly parallel with Main street on the east, and placed it at distances from it varying from thirty to sixty rods. This was to preserve the uniformity of this beautiful street, already representing an avenue cut through a forest; so densely was it shaded on either side by ornamental trees, tastefully arranged for nearly its entire length. The Canal Commissioner regarded this, and was adverse to cutting across the avenue. But some of the citizens were unfortunately for the good appearance of the village, opposed to the views of

rom, intended to be seven feet deep, with four feet depth of water.

The State bought the land through which the Chenango canal passes, and own it in fee simple. A profile of the canal, as it passes through the counties, was made, and when the damages were paid, the appraisers filed statements which were recorded in a book of deeds kept in each county clerk's office for the purpose. Sometimes curious legal questions have been mooted on the subject of the rights of land-holders along the banks of the canal. In one instance an assault and battery in Chenango occurred on a bridge extending across the canal. The assaulant was owner of the land on each side of the canal, and the bridge was constructed for his accommodation; the State, however, owned the land on which the canal was built, and also owned seven feet of the banks on each side of the canal. The court decided that the person going upon the bridge was trespassing, not against the State, but against the owner of the land on each side of the canal, by entering on his private bridge, built by the State, and he had a right to use the requisite force to put him off from the bridge, unless he was in some way connected with the business of canalizing. If this proposition be true, every person promoting the towing path of the canal, connected with it, is a trespasser. We think this an anomaly in legal dictes.

We have named John F. Hubbard as the early and efficient friend of the Chenango canal; but Mr. Hubbard had many coadjutors in the enterprise. Among the most prominent may be named William H. Maynard and Henry A. Foster, both of Oneida county, and for many years State Senators. Besides these there was John Tracy of this county; Reuben Tower, of Waterville, Oneida county; and Moses Maynard, of Madison county. There were others whose names do not occur to us.

The Commissioners of the canal had a discretion as to where the northern terminus should be fixed. The citizens

King's Road



no boats on the Canada shore, and the militia on the other side refused to give them aid. Gen. Scott took his position on the ground they then occupied, resolved to abide the shock, and think of surrender only when battle was impossible. He mounted a log in front of his much diminished band. "The enemies' balls," said he, "begin to thin our ranks. His numbers are overwhelming. In a moment the shock must come, and there is no retreat.—We are in the beginning of a national war. Hull's surrender must be redeemed. Let us then die, arms in hand.—Our country demands the sacrifice.—The example will not be lost. The blood of the slain will make heroes of the living. Those who follow will avenge our fall and their country's wrongs. Who dare to stand?" "All!" was the answering cry.

"In the meanwhile the British, under the command of Maj. Gen. Sheaffe, manœuvred with great caution and even hesitation, conscious of the vigorous resistance already made, and determined fully to reconnoitre. They found it difficult to believe that so small a body of men was the whole force they had to contend with, and supposed it rather an outpost than an army. At length the final attack began. The Americans, for a time, maintained their resolution, but finally began to give way to the power of overwhelming numbers.—When nearly surrounded, they let themselves (by holding on to limbs and bushes,) down the precipice to the river. Resistance was now ended, and after a brief consultation, it was determined to send a flag to the enemy, with a proposition to capitulate. Several flags were despatched, but the messengers never returned; being shot down or captured by the Indians. At length Gen. Scott, accompanied by Cpts. Totten and Gibson, fastened a white handkerchief to his sword, and thus equipped undertook the mission in person."

"The three American officers were conducted into the presence of Gen. Sheaffe; terms of capitulation were

agreed on, and Gen. Scott surrendered his whole force with the honors of war."

"The entire force thus surrendered, of those who had been actually fighting, were 134 regulars, and 154 militia, making in all 293. But to the intense chagrin and mortification of the commander, the number of prisoners was soon swelled by several hundreds of militia, who had crossed to the Canada shore, and in the confusion of the moment, had concealed themselves under the rocks higher up the river, and were not in the slightest degree engaged in the action of the day. . . . Thus ended the battle of Queenstown Heights."

"The total loss of the Americans in the battle was estimated at 1,000 men. About 100 were killed—200 who had landed with Maj. Mullaney early in the day, were forced by the current of the river on the enemies' shores, under their batteries, and were there captured.—Two hundred and ninety-three surrendered with Gen. Scott, and the residue were those who had landed, but were not in the battles."

During this hard-fought battle Col. Scott, like Marshall Lannes, at Austerlitz, and Essling, seemed to multiply himself! He was every where, and appeared to many to be possessed of the powers of ubiquity. That the volunteers at Lewiston should have declined to embark upon the rapid current, in crazy boats, within point blank distance of a British battery, especially after witnessing so frightful destruction of boats and men on the river, could not, even in the time of it, have created any considerable degree of surprise among reflecting men.

We come lastly to speak of the Chenango troops after the surrender. The prisoners were taken to Niagara, at the mouth of the river, and finally lodged further back in the country at Newark; the same place that the Americans afterwards burned. The savages captured one of the officers of Col. Meade's regiment, and before he was rescued, they had torn his uniform from him, and

were about taking his life, when he was released.

Lieut. John Fields, a prisoner from Boome county, had once been in the British army. The English claim, "once a subject, always a subject," was a dangerous doctrine for him, if he should be recognized among the prisoners. The officer in charge of the prisoners was the same commandant whom Fields had formerly escaped from. He went through various disguises, assisted by the captives, until he was parolled and had again reached our shores in safety; where he must certainly have breathed far easier, inasmuch as he had escaped the danger of being executed for taking up arms against his prince and sovereign.

While Lieut. Chas. Randall was prisoner at Newark, a British officer inquired of him what was done that so alarmed the Indians, when they were driven from the woods? The officer freely acknowledged it was with great difficulty they could be brought up a second time to the battle-field! Some of the men who fought under Col. Scott, were also under Hull, and liberated on parole. These brave fellows, well aware of their fate, if taken, preferred to attempt swimming the river, and most of them were drowned, or shot while crossing. One persevered in swimming, and when fairly in the stream was an easy target for a score of British musketeers, standing on the heights, overhanging the boiling current below. The bullets rained down on each side of him, but with no other effect than to cause the waters to steam and hiss about his head and breast. — He escaped!

On the sixth day after the battle, the prisoners generally were discharged on parole. The Chenango men returned home soon after—both those who crossed the river and all who remained in Lewiston.

We omitted to state that Doct. William Mason, of Preston, accompanied the Chenango regiment, and acted in the capacity of Surgeon.

We must preserve an anecdote of Col. Meade, who is now no more.—He behaved on the 13th, in battle, with great coolness and determination; his comrades bore honorable testimony on this point. In the retreat he had hanging by his side a valuable sword, which was the loan of a friend. He also had another with him. In descending the rocks at Queenstown, on his retreat, he tore it off and concealed it in the rocks to preserve it, and to keep it from going as a trophy to the enemy. At Hull's surrender Gen. Cass broke his weapon, and at Queenstown Col. Meade did his! The Colonel, while a prisoner, gave his fellow-sufferers an account of the transaction; they had a hearty laugh at his prudence; the more that he had by hiding the implement lost it, as by the terms of the capitulation he could have retained it. The volunteers, on their return home, circulated a report of the Colonel's mishap, and many pleasant jests were broken at his expense. At length some of his adversaries, more malevolent than wise, taunted the old soldier with disarming himself through fear! They did not believe the charge, but knew it would annoy that pride which is predominant in the breast of every truly military man.

The Colonel on one or two occasions gave *striking* proofs that if he was frightened into hiding his sword, he yet had courage enough left to take summary redress upon the hardest assaillant, who should dare accuse him of it.

In 1813 two companies went from Chenango to Sackett's Harbor. Mr. John Harris, of New Berlin, was present on the lines in the capacity of Lieutenant in 1813 and 1814.



THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SHIP AT THE BATTERY





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1835.

DE WITT CLINTON ESQ^S

You Think You Drink A lot!
I damin sho'r do!



Abram Per Lee, of North Norwich, was severely wounded at the landing before Little York—so severely as to be left for some hours among the dead. He finally recovered from his desperate wound.

Orin Caldwell, of Norwich, (who has been dead several years,) was badly wounded at the battle of Niagara.—The wound injured him for life, and no doubt hastened his death. He drew a pension for some years.

Peter Neer, a resident of Norwich, was in the battles of Niagara, Lundy's Lane, in the engagement at Sackett's Harbor, and other places where there was hard fighting.

While the Chenango troops were passing Black Rock, a woman in their presence picked up a spent cannon ball that struck near her while milking.—She picked it up as it rolled along, showed it to the troops, calling it a "British biscuit!" saying, while her countenance glowed with animation, "Ah ha! Here is a British biscuit, which the English have just sent over. I picked it up, and here it is," at the same time holding it high in the air, and assuming a self-satisfying attitude, much to their amusement.

It has been contended that Col. Meade was as prominent on the field during the battle of Queenstown, as any of the militia officers, yet strange to say his meritorious services have never been mentioned by any of our military historians. A battle-field is something like an affray, no two witnesses ever agreeing precisely in relating the details of the fight.

At the time Gen. Van Rensselaer was brought back to the American lines wounded, he tried every persuasion to cross the troops over, shouting at the top of his lungs, while his heart beat with patriotic emotion, "Go on! go on, my brave boys, and fear no evil, for the day is ours!"

Lieut. Chas. Randall has contended

that the men did not cross, for the want of boats. They went with alacrity to the water's edge, but could not cross. Mr. Randall bears honorable testimony to the exceeding personal bravery of Gen. Van Rensselaer, after he was severely wounded. We have not space to enlarge upon the military history of the country.

BANKING IN CHENANGO.

"Banks, like most commercial institutions, originated in Italy, where, in the infancy of European commerce, the Jews were wont to assemble in the market-places of the principal towns, seated on benches, ready to lend money; the term 'bank,' therefore, is derived from the Italian word *banco*, signifying bench." Banks are of three kinds; they are of deposit, of discount, of circulation.—In the United States, France and England, each institution performs all of these offices.

The first bank of which we have any knowledge was the "Bank of Venice," established in the year 1171, or during the Crusades, for the purpose of rendering assistance to expeditions engaged in the holy wars. This was, like the Sub Treasury, a bank of deposit, simply. The government became responsible for the safe return of the funds entrusted to the care of the bank. The government was allowed to make use of the funds of the bank, giving vouchers, which corresponded with our modern treasury notes. These passed currently from hand to hand as representatives of coin. The Sub Treasury receives in deposit government moneys only, while the bank of Venice received the funds of individuals, which were used by the government. This bank continued in existence until the dissolution of the Venetian republic, in 1708—a period of six hundred and twenty-seven years.

The "Bank of Amsterdam" was established in 1609, and owed its origin to the clipped and worn currency, which, being of uncertain and fluctuating value, subjected the change to a corresponding

fluctuation and uncertainty. The object of the institution was to give a certain and unquestionable value to a bill on Amsterdam. For this purpose, the various coins were received in deposit at the bank at a certain value. This is a bank merely of deposit and transfer, and still exists.

The "Bank of Hamburg" was established ten years after the last mentioned institution, or in 1619, and is confined to deposit and transfer, and is yet in being.

The "Bank of England," established in the reign of William and Mary, in 1693, was founded to aid in carrying on a war against France. This institution is yet in being. This bank has been England's right arm in all subsequent wars.

The "Bank of France" was organized during the reign of Napoleon, or in 1803, with a capital of forty-five millions francs.

The first bank that was founded in the county is the present "Bank of Chenango." Ebenezer Wakely, Joseph S. Fenton, John Randall, Uri Tracy and others, associated together under the name the bank now bears, and presented to the Legislature a petition praying to be "incorporated as a company and body corporate."

The original charter of the bank has undergone three emendations, which we will notice after we have spoken of the first grant or charter that passed the Legislature on the 21st of April, 1818, creating the bank. The bank could not by the terms of its charter buy real estate, although it could hold it when taken to secure debts. "The capital stock of the bank not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars, and each share to be fifty dollars." Of the stock to be paid in before any notes or bills could issue, the law required twelve and a half per centum in specie. The President and Cashier to make oath of the amount paid in, and file the affidavit of the fact with the County Clerk. The bank to be under the control of thirteen direc-

tors, chosen annually, and to be residents of the county.

Thompson Meade, Charles Knapp, Robert Monell, Samuel Ladd and Samuel Campbell were appointed Commissioners to open books to receive subscriptions to the capital stock of the Bank. The Commissioners also to superintend the first election of directors.

There was a provision in the charter that when a demand for specie payment was made and not complied with, the bank was to cease, while the inability to pay continued, all banking operations including discounts. If the bank did not, within sixty days after specie was demanded for its bills, pay it over, then its charter was forfeited. During the time of suspension, the bank was compelled to pay, on all notes presented, at the rate of fourteen per centum per annum. The corporation was prohibited from taking for loans, not exceeding sixty days, a larger rate of interest than six per centum, per year. The bank was also prohibited from loaning money to brokers, to pay up notes with, under a penalty of two hundred dollars.

The bank was compelled to receive all deposits offered, and to pay on deposits for one month at the rate of two per centum per annum; for deposits of two months' standing, at the rate of three per centum; thus increasing until the rate of interest reached as high as five per centum. The bank was compelled to make an annual report to the Legislature of its standing.

The charter of 1818 extended down to 1834. In the year 1829 it was extended, under certain modifications, to 1856. No person could be a director under the amended act, unless he owned five hundred dollars of stock. It was forbidden the corporation to take an hypothecation of its own stock, as security for loans or discounts. The amended charter was subject to the general power reserved to the Legislature, to alter, modify or repeal the act extending the charter.

In the year 1830 the charter underwent another alteration, and in the year

1832 still another. The act of 1832 required the bank to discontinue business and close, if it should refuse to pay specie for its notes, until it again resumed its redemptions. There was also allowed the bank, in case of non-payment of its notes, an appeal to the Vice Chancellor of this circuit for an order to allow it to proceed with business, when there was a suspension of specie payments, for good cause shown.

On the 2d of April, 1829, an act passed the Legislature to create a fund for the benefit of the creditors of certain moneyed corporations, and for other purposes. This enactment is more familiarly known as the "Safety Fund" law. The Chenango Bank came under the purview of this law, which was the first that had placed the operations of these institutions upon any thing like a firm basis. Three inspectors of banks were to be appointed; one by the Governor and Senate; the banking institutions, under certain limitations, to appoint the other two. The Commissioners were invested with very ample powers, and authority over the banks.— They became an inquisitorial body, liable to call at any time upon the officers of the banks for statements exhibiting the financial condition of each institution.

The first Commissioner who visited the Bank of Chenango, was, we believe, Commissioner Stebbins. He at once applied to Chancery for an injunction to close the bank. The charges alleged against the bank were, among other irregularities, that its capital stock had not been paid in, that the stock owners had simply deposited their private notes and issued bills upon them, all the while treating them as so much cash paid in.

The result was that when the payments for stock were demanded, they were not forthcoming, and the bank was closed. The panic among bill-holders, as well as depositors was intense. Many merchants and mechanics for some time wore faces drawn out much beyond their usual length. Relief at length

came through the assistance of capitalists. This class of men came forward, paid up the stock notes, took the stock, filled the vaults with specie, and finally placed this bank on that solid basis which it rests upon to this day. The bank, under the former regime, had some interesting litigations, arising in some cases out of personal feuds.

We will notice briefly but one case, which was determined in the Supreme Court. John F. Hubbard, on the 25th of June, 1825, presented a thousand dollars in bank notes at the counter of this institution, and called for their redemption in specie. It was not paid on that day, though he was in attendance to receive it. When he entered the bank the teller was counting out one thousand dollars in coin for a Mr. Meade, which occupied the whole of banking hours during that day. The teller was paying Mr. Meade in very small coin, that consumed a very long time in ascertaining. The Cashier refused to assist, although Mr. Hubbard offered to take a box of specie at the bank mark. This was refused also.

The bank in defence, urged and offered to prove on the trial that the plaintiff and others had raised fourteen thousand dollars as a fund to draw specie from the bank. Judge Nelson rejected this evidence. It was then proved by the bank that "a Mr. Noyes" had kept up a run for several days, for small sums. On one occasion he came into the bank claiming he had seven thousand dollars, and drew out in specie one thousand. On the same day Mr. Meade offered to deposit three thousand dollars, which was declined by the bank, and he then drew a thousand dollars in specie. The next day Mr. Meade, the elder, demanded specie for one thousand dollars, which the teller was counting when Mr. Hubbard presented his money. The amount presented in all about the same time by Messrs. Noyes, Meade, Hubbard and Clark was sixteen thousand dollars, besides a large amount presented by Mr. Clapp.

Upon the above facts the court laid

down some general rules adverse to the bank, which are now the prevailing law in this State. "Unreasonable delay," said the court, "amounts to a refusal of payment." Another position—"a bank cannot, at its option, pay out in small pieces when it has large on hand, thus creating delay; and it should keep money ready counted out, or servants sufficient to count it out within a reasonable time. If there be unreasonable delay, it amounts to a refusal of payment."

After the bank was re-organized, it moved on harmoniously under the new administration, until it became one of the most profitable in the State, perhaps the most so. Its customers are not, as in many of the large commercial towns, extra hazardous operators. The community have the most unlimited confidence in the soundness of the institution; so much so, that in times of panic few of the farmers in the county draw out from their money-chests the notes of the bank to obtain coin. Its charter expires in almost five years. The question then arises what institution will take its place. No more bank charters, under the safety fund system, are granted. Our own opinion is that the stockholders will at once organize and continue under the general banking law, without any interruption of business.

The "Bank of Chenango" is the only moneyed institution in the county, or that has at any time existed here, except a new bank recently set in operation, under the general banking law, in Bainbridge. The capital of the "Bank of Chenango" has never exceeded \$120,000, notwithstanding the limit in the act of incorporation amounted to nearly twice this amount. We believe no county in the State, of the population, wealth and commercial enterprise of this, employs so little banking capital. The want of greater moneyed facilities has often been experienced by our wholesale produce dealers, and frequent propositions for one or more new banks have been made by citizens, but no organized action has yet taken place. That we

require greater banking capital, all admit; that bank stock investments in southern New York generally have been safe and better paying than any other, we must equally admit. Banks and governments are rich in proportion as the people upon whom they depend are wealthy. It is individual prosperity that constitutes wealth in the aggregate.—In no county within the State is money more equally distributed than in this.—There are few overgrown families, and as few paupers.

We call public attention to the deficit of bank capital in the county, because we believe for the want of it, much manufacturing and tax-paying capital is kept away.

When new settlements in the west are undertaken, the population resort at once to the establishment of banking facilities; considering these as indispensable to the general welfare as schools and meeting houses.

The first board of directors of the "Bank of Chenango" were as follows:

Charles Knapp,	John Noyes, Sen.,
Tilly Lynde,	Cyrus Strong,
Henry Mitchell,	Robert Monell,
James Birdsall,	Jonathan Johnson,
Joseph S. Fenton,	David G. Bright,
Mark Steere,	Nathan Chamberlin,
Joshua Pratt, Jr.	

Chosen in the year 1818.

The first President of the Bank was Charles Knapp. Thomas Milner succeeded Mr. Knapp, and Ira Wilcox, chosen to fill the place of Mr. Milner, in the year 1830. Mr. W. still retains the office.

Matthew Talcott, of Utica, a brother of the late Samuel A. Talcott, late Attorney General of the State, was the first Cashier of the Bank. His successor was Joseph S. Fenton, who gave place to James Birdsall; and he, in the year 1834, surrendered up his trust to Walter M. Conkey, who has continued to supply the station to the present time.

Giles Chittenden was the first Teller of the Bank. George Field, a lad between seventeen and eighteen years of age, was the next Teller. He continu-

ed in the bank about two years. David S. Perry succeeded him. In 1826 Walter M. Conkey came into the bank as Teller, and William B. Pellet was appointed by the directors to his station of Teller and Book Keeper in 1827. He yet continues, and by his energy has superseded the necessity of a second or assistant clerk. He has filled his present situation in the bank for the space of twenty-three years.

Not many years since the directors were summoned very often to superintend the minute affairs of the bank.— Under the present management they find, when they meet, the counsels of the Cashier, Teller and President ample for every emergency.

When the charter was granted, in 1818, the stockholders were authorized to raise their capital to two hundred thousand dollars. They fixed it at one hundred thousand. When the safety fund law was passed they were required to name anew the amount, and to be limited by it accordingly. It was then put at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and so remains. This small capital has been so judiciously employed that in September, 1849, there was a surplus of nett earnings ready to be divided among stockholders, amounting to forty-nine thousand dollars. And this, exclusive of the handsome dividends distributed annually among the stock owners.

MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

On the 3d day of May, 1836, the Legislature enacted that Abel Chandler, John Clapp, Charles York, Allen Meade, George L. Rider, Smith M. Purdy, John Noyes, Augustus C. Welch, Austin Hyde, Wells Wait, John Latham, John C. Clark, Henry De Forest, Charles Squires, Russel Case, Alexander Holmes, Isaac Stokes, Silas Reade, Jr., and all other persons who might thereafter associate with them, be a corporation by the name of the

“CHENANGO MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.”

for the purpose of insuring their respective dwelling houses, stores, shops and

other buildings, household furniture, merchandize and other property, against loss or damage by fire.

The above named individuals were by the terms of the act the first directors of the corporation. A majority of the members of the corporation had the power of determining the place in the county where the company should transact its business. The directors were empowered to determine the rates of insurance, the sum to be insured, and the sum to be deposited for any insurance. Another provision of the law, and one authorizing the collection of moneys from the members, reads thus:

“Every person who shall become a member of said corporation by effecting insurance therein, shall, before he receives his policy, deposit his promissory note for such a sum of money as shall be determined by the directors; a part, not exceeding five per cent, of said note shall be immediately paid; and the remainder of said deposit note shall be payable, in part or the whole, at any time when the directors shall deem the same requisite for the payment of losses by fire, and such incidental expenses as shall be necessary for transacting the business of said company; and at the expiration of the term of insurance, the said note, or such part of the same as shall remain unpaid, after deducting all losses and expenses occurring during said term, shall be relinquished and given up to the maker thereof.”

By another provision of the law creating the corporation, if any member of the company refused to pay his assessment, the premium note might be sued, and the *face of it, with costs*, collected. The amount collected on the note, to remain in the hands of the company to answer losses occurring while the policy of the defaulter was in force; after that the overplus to be paid back.

Beyond the amount of the premium note, the members of the company were liable, in certain contingencies, to be assessed; these were in case the losses by fire exceeded the amount of all the premium notes deposited by members.

The company was not to issue any policy of insurance until application should be made for risks amounting to fifty thousand dollars at least. The charter of the company was to extend to twenty years.

The foregoing are a few of the leading features of the law under which the Insurance company went into operation on the 5th of September, 1836.

In January, 1841, the company was in a prosperous condition, as appears from the following abstract of their affairs: In this year it had issued policies, throughout the middle and eastern states, to the amount of three millions six hundred and eighty-one thousand five hundred and thirty-three dollars.

The amount of premium notes in force on the 1st of January, 1841, was three hundred eleven thousand three hundred and thirty-eight dollars. The amount collected on premium notes from the time of its establishment in 1836 down to 1841, was twenty-six thousand one hundred and sixty-three dollars.

The amount paid for losses up to January, 1841, footed at fifteen thousand nine hundred and eighteen dollars.—The amount claimed was twenty-one thousand five hundred and seventeen dollars. The two last mentioned sums put together amount to thirty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-five dollars. During this year the company collected ten per centum on all premium notes in force on the 1st of September, 1840.

Within the next five years the affairs of the company became apparently (though not really,) involved through mismanagement; insomuch that Mr. Attorney General Van Buren enjoined it. A receiver was ordered to put its affairs into liquidation; and Austin Hyde, recently deceased, was selected for this duty.—Since then but little has been known of its standing. Those who were so unfortunate as to be members of this corporation, have had to pay freely, and are still paying; but we trust they are nearly through. The unfortunate issue of insurance in this county has alarmed

farmers, merchants and mechanics out of all joint stock companies.

"Most money schemes, as snares, they hate,
And bite not at projector's bait."

We might descend much more into details, but cannot do so without giving personal offence, which we have studiously avoided so far in the history.—The company has ceased to exist for further good. Ere many years its virtues and its errors will be buried in the vast depository of things that were.

NOTE.

In publishing the subdivision of the county into towns at pages 4 and 5, the list was taken from the second edition of the Revised Statutes, volume 3, commonly called the Spencer edition. Upon comparing the list with the various laws, numerous errors were found. We therefore reprint the list after personal examination.

Bainbridge was organized in 1791 under the name of Jericho. The first town meeting was held at the house of William Guthrie.

Columbus was taken from Brookfield in 1805. The first town meeting was held at the house of Jonathan Brownell.

Coventry was taken from Greene in 1806. The first town meeting was held at the school house near Burrage Miles'.

Guilford was taken from Oxford in 1814. The first town meeting was held at the house of Jehiel Parsons.

German was taken from De Ruyter in 1806.

Greene was taken from Union and Jericho in 1798. The first town meeting was held at the house of Conrad Sharp.

Lincklaen was taken from German in 1823. The first town meeting was held at the dwelling of Abel Fairchild.

McDonough was taken from Preston in 1816. The first town meeting was held at the dwelling of Sylvanus Moor.

New Berlin was taken from Norwich in 1807. The first town meeting was held at the house of Jeremy Goodrich.

Norwich was taken from Jericho and Union in 1793. The first town meeting



THOMAS DE BETHUNE

J. F. B. B.

was held at the house of Capt. John Harris.

North Norwich was taken from Norwich in 1849. The first town meeting was held at Tower's tavern.

Otselic was taken from German in 1817. The first town meeting was held at the dwelling of Ebenezer Hill.

Oxford was taken from Union and Jericho in 1793. The first town meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Hovey.

Pharsalia was taken from Norwich in 1806. The first town meeting was held at the house of Sanford Morton.

Pitcher was taken from German and Lincklaen in 1827. The first town meeting was held at the house of Abel Chandler.

Plymouth was taken from Norwich in 1806. The first town meeting was held at the house of Walter Beman.

Preston was taken from Norwich in 1807. The first town meeting was held at the house of William Palmer.

Sherburne was taken from Paris in 1795. The first town meeting was held at the house of Timothy Hatch.

Smithville was taken from Greene in 1809. The first town meeting was held at a school house near Joseph Agard's.

Smyrna was taken from Sherburne in 1809. The first town meeting was held at the house of William Ladd.

CONCLUSION.

We now take leave of the patrons of the County History. That it is an imperfect production arises from several causes aside from the limited ability of the writer. The work, as originally designed, was to be published only in a series of newspaper articles. As we advanced, the Messrs. Lawyers, printers, and Messrs. Thompson & Pratt, publishers, requested the privilege of collecting what might be written into pamphlet form in order to preserve it for future use and reference. It was thought, also, after a lapse of time, that

some individual might be found who would write a full and accurate narrative of Chenango, and the present attempt would assist him. The reader will bear in mind that we publish as information was obtained, without reference to an orderly arrangement. The statistics are copied from census returns. At one time it was contemplated to write out a full description of the early inhabitants of each town; but this was abandoned with regret. It was abandoned because the writer had not the requisite leisure to visit all the towns and remain in each for space sufficient to collect the necessary information. This history is presented to the citizens of Chenango county as an offering from a native, many years absent, but who, entertaining very warm good wishes for the place of his birth, desired to see a printed sketch of that locality. The limited number of copies now printed in no way compensates for the time, labor and anxiety incident to a production of this kind. The writer prefers that the public should consider this as an attempt towards a history of the county, rather than as the history itself. We regret that we were unable to obtain accurate census returns for 1850; but so it is, and the newspapers will hereafter supply this omission. Soon after the history was undertaken the newspaper in which it appeared was removed to Bainbridge, a distance of twenty miles from the residence of the writer. This unfortunate circumstance prevented any personal correction of proof-sheets, and hence many typographical errors occurred; but we trust they are not of a nature to mislead the reader. Some will be corrected in the errata. It was contemplated giving the political and church history of the county, and also publishing reminiscences of eminent men; but our limited space precluded even this. We trust, finally, that sufficient patronage will be extended to the work to repay the publishers and printers for their praiseworthy efforts to inform and amuse the public at considerable private expenditure.

ERRATA.

List of towns—corrected page.

At page 16, near the bottom of the second column, there was an error from the transposition of type in making up the form. The sentence should read:

“Is very destructive to them. In the village of Oxford, in past years, as improvements at various times advanced, in the neighborhood of Fort Hill many Indian relics were found, such as stone hatchets, flint arrow points, stone chisels, &c.”

At page 15 “To propitiate their *names*,” read for names “*manes*.”

At page 17 it is said the troops of Gen Sullivan did not cross the county. They did pass on the Susquehanna through Bainbridge.

At page 31 it is said that Chenango county “*once embraced* the twenty townships.” One year before the erection of the county, part of the twentieth town (Sangersfield,) was set off to Bridgewater.

At page 52, after the words “residence of,” insert Asahel in place of “Stephen.”

At page 53, after the words “public monuments,” insert—A new clerk’s

office was completed in October, 1851, at a cost of \$3,000.

At page 63, after the words “lucrative practice,” insert—Mr. Garvin was elected District Attorney of Oneida county in 1850.

At page 63—bottom, read—The oath was much the same as that now required of foreigners, as a pre-requisite of citizenship.

At page 64 strike out the first two lines at the top.

At page 71, after the word “eigh-teen” read 749.

At page 72, after the word “engaged,” for “3,464,” read 3,644.

After the word “Pharsalia,” for “12,” read 11.

After the word “Plymouth,” for “91,” read 19.

After the word “was,” for “12,81,” read 12,816.

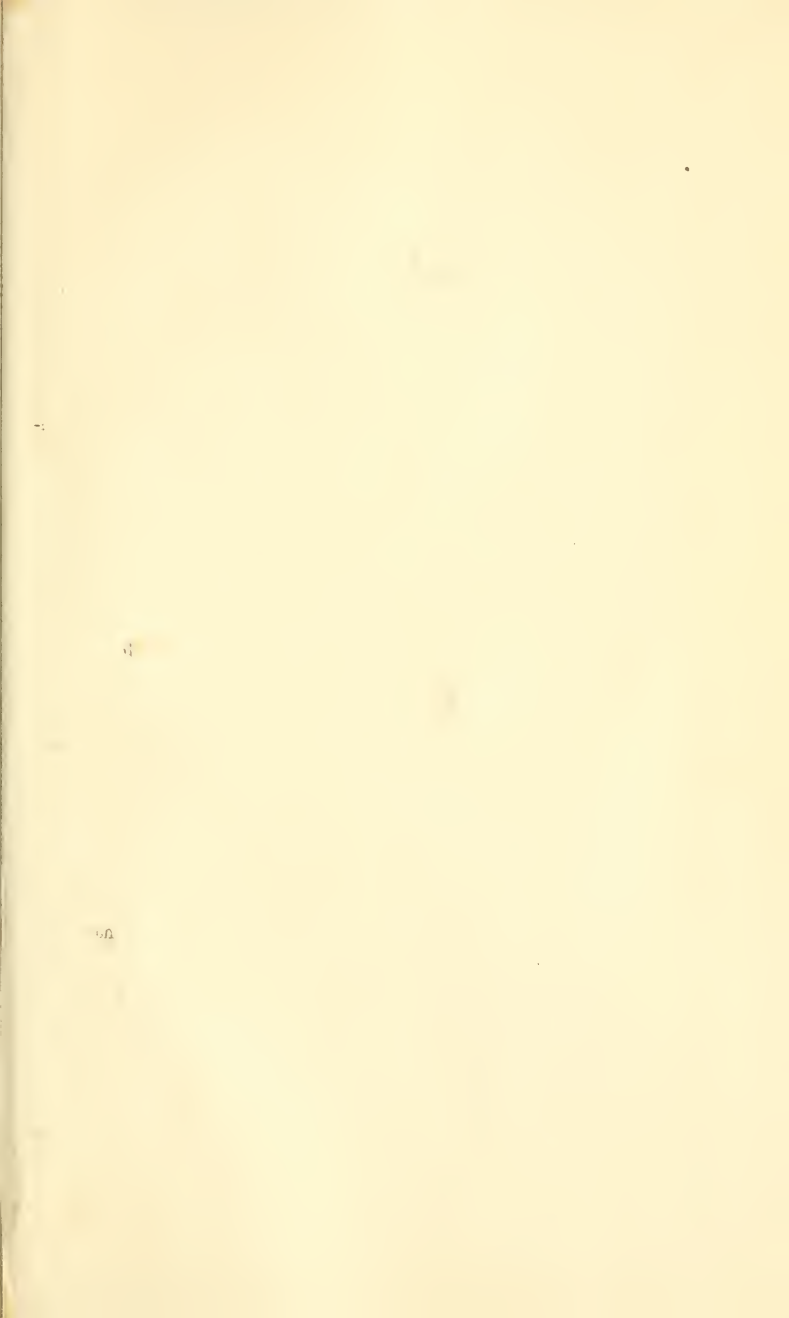
After the word “but,” for “840,” read 340.

After the figures “1800,” for “5,556,” read 15,666.

Wherever the word “grammer” occurs read *grammar*.

A D D E N D A .

The Author returns his sincere acknowledgements to Messrs. John Tracy and E. B. McCall, of Oxford; to Messrs. Henry Bennett, John Harris, Thomas Brown and Noah Mathewson, of New Berlin; to Messrs. Benjamin F. Rexford, Joseph Skinner, Charles Randall, Truman Enos, William Thorpe, and to the widow of Hascal Ransford, deceased, of Norwich, and to many other inhabitants of Chenango, for valuable information furnished him during the progress of the history. Without this co-operation on the part of individuals, much interesting information appertaining to the County, could not have been given to the Public.







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